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Gulf war
MANAMA, (UPI) — Iraq said yesterday that it killed dozens of Iranian soldiers in fighting along the front. Iran said it inflicted heavy casualties on Iraqi forces east of Basra. A spokesman for the Iraqi armed forces said 49 Iranian soldiers were killed in fighting all along the land battlefield, the state-run Iraqi news agency reported.

Taj Mahal
NEW DELHI, (Reuters) — The Taj Mahal, India's most famous tourist attraction, may soon close one day a week for maintenance.

Lawyers assigned
DAMASCUS, (Reuters) — Syria's Bar Association assigned lawyers yesterday to defend Khaled Abdel Nasser, eldest son of Egypt's national hero, if he is brought to trial in Cairo on terrorism charges, officials said.

Soviet support
CAIRO, (UPI) — The Soviet Union has informed Iraq that it will support a new UN Security Council resolution clamping an arms embargo against Iran, the No. 2 man in the Iraqi leadership said yesterday.

102 detained
VERONA, (Reuters) — Police said yesterday they had arrested 102 people on charges of drug trafficking following the seizure of 85 kilos (187 pounds) of heroin in northern Italy.

US-Soviet talks
PRAGUE, (Reuters) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze briefed Moscow's Warsaw Pact allies yesterday on the latest US-Soviet talks.

Kuwaitis are distinguished brothers: Saddam Iraq has no intentions to harm Iranian people

By Ahmed Al Jarallah

IRAQI President Saddam Hussein has emphasised the strong relations enjoyed between Kuwait and Iraq. The President said in an interview with the editors-in-chief of Kuwaiti newspapers: Kuwaitis are our distinguished brothers. Iraq has many brothers but only a few of them have distinguished positions.

Commenting on the war with Iran Saddam said that it was not the intention of Iraq to harm the Iranian people, but to defend the Iraqis and the Arab nation. "We will be pleased when we have peace because the Iranian people will enjoy peace," he said.

When asked about a truce between the two countries, Saddam said: "The war has not been waged for more than eight years to ask for a truce... the one who sacrifices for eight years does not want a truce."

Decision
"What we want is an all inclusive solution for the preservation of security, sovereignty and dignity."

When Saddam was questioned about his decision to discharge those who had completed 10 years in the Army, he said that this did not indicate a state of relaxation in the war. He

attributed the decision to a more flexible way of dealing with available resources. He said the preparations would continue and a state of alert would remain even if an official agreement to end the war was signed.

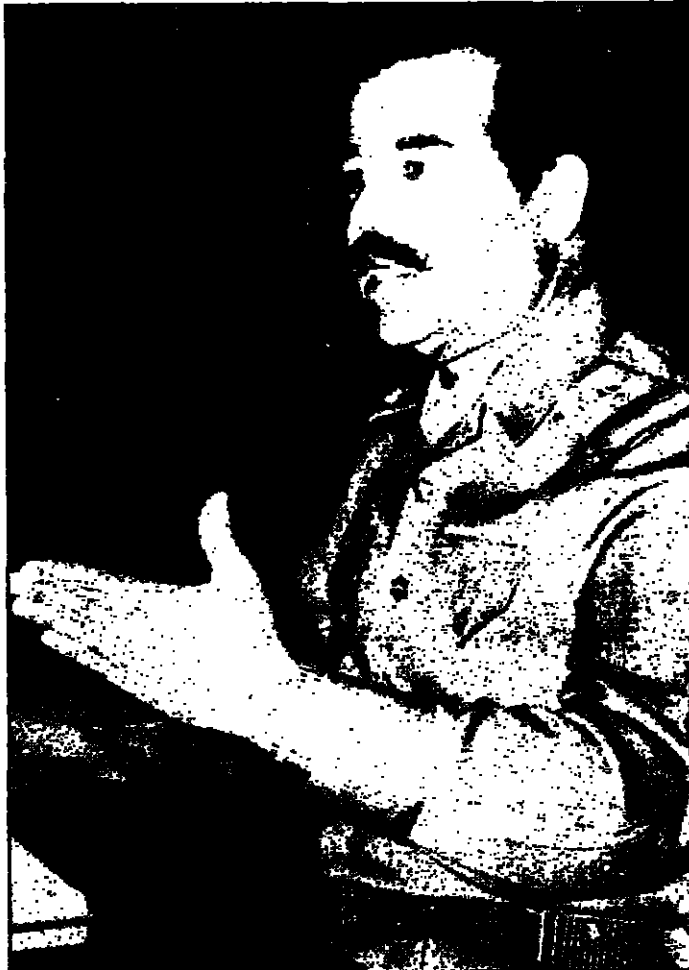
"It is time to direct part of our attention and concern to other fields," Saddam said. The President maintained that the work of the UN Security Council and the UN secretary-general, to end the war leaves no room for mediation by any Arab country.

Trained

Saddam said that Iraqis claimed that a mediation effort was the reason for the delay in Iranian attacks against Iraq. He explained that the reason for the delay was not this mediation, but for other reasons which are known to all.

Saddam said the Iraqi forces were now better than during the last aggression in February last year. The Army is bigger, better equipped and trained, he added.

On the other hand, he said that the Iranian position is worsening. He said the number of volunteers the Iranian regime was able to gather in one year was less than the number of those who attacked Iraq last year. "Anyone



Saddam: we are strong

Opposition walks out of Parliament

Resign, demonstrators ask Rajiv

NEW DELHI, Feb 23, (AP) — Thousands of opposition party workers demonstrated outside Parliament today shouting for the removal of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on charges of ineffectiveness and corruption.

Waving party flags and banners, demonstrators from eight major opposition groups chanted "Rajiv Gandhi resign" and "Remove Rajiv, save India."

The demonstration, on the second day of the budget session of Parliament, marks the start of a scheduled three-week opposition programme of anti-government protests. An estimated 5,000 joined the demonstration.

Shielding
Meanwhile, in Parliament, most of the opposition walked out of the Lower House to protest the government's decision to raise the prices of steel, gasoline and coal in December.

The United News of India news agency quoted opposition members as saying that the move

was improper as it was taken when Parliament was not in session.

The opposition protests are scheduled to culminate in a nationwide strike on March 15. All major opposition parties, except the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party, have pledged support to the programme.

Denied
Leaders of India's two communist parties, the Lok Dal Party and the Jan Morcha (people's movement), addressed the demonstrating workers. The speakers accused Rajiv of shielding corrupt officials and criticised the government's inability to contain rising prices.

The corruption charges relate to allegations of kickbacks on defence deals with the Swedish company Bofors and a West German firm supplying submarines. Rajiv has denied the charges and has appointed government committees to inquire into the deals.

Newspapers and opposition leaders claim that close aides of Rajiv received the kickbacks but they have not been able to prove the charges.

Corruption charges against the government also echoed in Parliament's upper house, when members of the ruling Congress Party attempted to block a question from an opposition leader on reported violations of foreign exchange rules by Ajitabh Bachhan, a friend of the Prime Minister.

The question was raised by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former President of Bharatiya Janata Party. According to UNI, Vajpayee later accused the Prime Minister of shielding his friends, which led to an uproar in the house.

Bachhan, a brother of film star and former Parliament member Amitabh Bachhan, has been accused by newspapers of being involved in kickbacks on the Bofors deals.

Giving up husbands

HAMBURG, West Germany, Feb 23, (UPI) — Most West German women would give up their husbands before their best friend, according to a public opinion poll released today by a women's magazine.

The Journal for Women said 71 per cent of a representative sampling of women said if they had to choose between their husband and their best female friend they would renounce the husband.

Twenty-six per cent said they would choose their husband. Three per cent had no opinion. Eighteen per cent said they tell their best friend all their secrets and 42 per cent said they tell almost everything.

Battletank

WASHINGTON, Feb 23, (UPI) — Egypt is likely to fulfil its goal of being the first Arab country to produce — with US cooperation — its own main battletank, a US official was quoted today as saying by a newspaper.

A Reagan administration source told the Wall Street Journal the State Department will tell Congress next month it plans to go ahead with a controversial, \$2 billion co-production project for the M-1 tank.

Indians avenge Tamil ambush

COLOMBO, Feb 23, (AP) — Indian troops reportedly shot and killed 20 Tamils today after Tamil rebels ambushed a soldiers' patrol in a remote village in the northeastern Mullaitivu district, Sri Lankan military officials said.

The Tamils allegedly were shot dead after an Indian Army officer and three soldiers were killed in the ambush in Kuthukudiuppu village, said the officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules. The village is about 278 kilometres (173 miles) northeast of Colombo.

Recovered

The officials said the Tamils killed were civilians. A spokesman for the Indian high commission denied that any civilians were killed. She said a body of a Tamil rebel was recovered and at least 10 more were believed killed in the retaliatory attack by Indian troops.

Authorities clamped an indefinite curfew on Mullaitivu after the violence broke out. Sri Lankan officials said there were reports of heavy air activity by the Indian military.

Afghan diplomat defects

ROME, Feb 23, (AP) — An Italian newspaper said today that the chief of Afghanistan's diplomatic mission in Italy, reported missing since last week, had defected to the West.

The Italian Foreign Ministry confirmed that it was informed by the Afghan embassy last Thursday that Mohamed Nazir Fedayi, the Charge d'Affaires, had "disappeared."

But a ministry spokesman, who asked not to be identified by name, declined comment on the front-page report in the Turin newspaper La Stampa that the 43-year-old diplomat had defected with his wife and was flown to another European country with the help of US intelligence agents.

The state-run Rai-TV, without giving any attribution, said the diplomat was probably being held under the protection of American agents, possibly in the United States.

A spokeswoman for the US Embassy, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said she had no comment on the case.

US to lift visa requirements for Britons

LONDON, Feb 23, (UPI) — The United States will lift visa requirements for Britons travelling to America on vacation or business from the end of the year, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

He said the decision taken after two years of negotiations between London and Washington, will enable any British citizen to enter the United States for up to 90 days without a visa as long as they have a ticket and valid passport.

Only those seeking to work or live in the United States will have to get visas.

William Ball

WASHINGTON, Feb 23, (Reuters) — President Reagan nominated White House aide William Ball today to succeed Navy Secretary James Webb, who resigned over budget cuts.

Cost of living

NEW YORK, Feb 23, (AP) — The cost of living — real living — in the nation's most expensive big city rose more than twice as much last year as an index of normal consumer goods, according to a survey released yesterday.

Afghan rebels seek to sign accord

ISLAMABAD, Feb 23, (Reuters) — Afghan leaders said today the interim government they will shortly form must sign a UN-negotiated peace settlement rather than the present Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

The Pakistan-based rebel alliance said its proposed "broad-based transitional government" should replace the Kabul government "before the signing of the Geneva accords which it will sign under auspices of the United Nations Organisation."

Pakistan will resume indirect talks in Geneva on March 2 with the Kabul government on a withdrawal of Soviet forces in Afghanistan and a halt to aid for the rebels.

Islamabad has said a broad-based government must take over in Kabul before it signs the agreement, a position differing from that of the United States, a senior US official said today.

Opposes

The United States opposes Pakistan's demand for an interim government in Kabul before a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan the official said in Brussels.

"We wouldn't want to miss the bus," the official said.

"We've been trying to get the Soviets out for years" and it would be wrong to tell them to "stick around" until the Afghans work out a political settlement, he added.

The official, who asked not to be identified, spoke with reporters travelling with Secretary of State George Shultz from talks with Soviet officials in Moscow to NATO headquarters in Brussels.

It was expected that US Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost would convey this US position when he flies to Pakistan after the NATO alliance meeting.

An alliance statement said its high council had agreed on the structure of the transitional government last night. The agreement has been forwarded to the Pakistani government, it said, but no Pakistani comment was immediately available.

An alliance spokesman in the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar said he would give no date when the transitional government would be formed but he said it would happen by the end of this month.

Offered

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev offered on Feb 8 to withdraw the Soviet forces by May 1989 if Islamabad and Kabul signed the settlement by the middle of the next month.

The Western-backed guerrilla alliance had announced their decision earlier this month to form a transitional government but did not give details.

The alliance said in its statement today its government under a "races-i-hukamat" (head of government) will have 28 ministers — 14 from the "mujahideen" (rebels) and seven each from Afghan refugees and Muslims now living in Afghanistan.

The statement said the transitional government would ensure a ceasefire, safe and complete withdrawal of the Soviet forces, return of the refugees and general elections "consistent with Islamic law" within six months after the Soviet withdrawal.

Responsibility

"The transitional government will sign the Geneva accords and undertake full responsibility for their implementation, including the safe return of the Soviet forces, when the accords become acceptable... (to it)," the statement said.

It also proposed a grand council of alliance leaders as the supreme body of the state, a 75-member consultative council to frame laws, provincial administrative councils.

A full autonomous election commission will be set up to draw

(Continued on Page 2)

Israel clarifies beating policy as 2 die in W. Bank

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Feb 23, (Agencies) — Two Palestinian children were killed in separate West Bank shootings, including a 13-year-old girl apparently shot by an Israeli civilian and an Arab boy killed by troops firing to disperse a crowd hurling firebombs, the Army said today.

An Arab youth in the Gaza Strip claimed troops buried him on a Mediterranean beach, and the Army chief of staff issued a letter to soldiers explaining when they may use force in light of allegations that troops have misused the Army's new beating policy.

The two deaths reported today raised to at least 63 the number of Arabs killed in nearly 11 weeks of anti-Israeli rioting in the occupied territories, the home to 1.5 million Palestinians seized in the 1967 six day war.

Mission

Few problems were reported in Jerusalem, where some 1,500 additional police officers patrolled to crush Palestinian protests planned during a peace-making mission later this week by US Secretary of State George Shultz. A rare snow and hail storm that pounded the holy city also helped dampen any protests.

In Gaza, refugees in the Jabalia camp threw rocks and bottles at a convoy taking Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden on a tour of the 25-mile (40-km) long coastal strip. Soldiers fired tear gas and used clubs to halt the rock-throwing, which destroyed the windshield of a car in Hayden's convoy, Israeli radio reported.

In the West Bank, the Army said a 13-year-old girl from the village of Baqa Al Sharqiya was shot dead last night. The Army refused to give any further details, but said at least one Israeli civilian was being held today in connection with the slaying.

Ammunition

The Palestine Press Service said settlers shot the girl, Rawda Lutfi Najib, as she stood outside her house last night. The Army had no comment on the report.

In the village of Yamoun, north of Jenin, the Army said hundreds of Arabs attacked troops late yesterday and early today, throwing knives, dozens

of Molotov cocktails, rocks and potatoes with spikes embedded in them, injuring two soldiers.

Troops fired tear gas and rubber bullets and a commander several times opened up with live ammunition, killing Mahmoud Naamen Hoshiyeh, also 13, and wounding two other Arabs, the Army said.

Several local residents were arrested and the Army clamped a curfew on the village.

Affidavit

In Gaza, Adel Ali Massoud, 18, described in a sworn affidavit how soldiers arrested him in his home in Khan Yunis on Feb 14 and buried him on a nearby beach. He said the soldiers took him and another unnamed youth to a beach west of the town.

"There they tied me to a jeep, and dragged me while driving fast. Afterward they beat me again and buried me in the sand, filling my mouth with the sand also," Massoud said.

An Army spokesman said Massoud, who was in a Khan Yunis hospital today had not filed a formal complaint with the military. The report was under investigation, he said.

The Army has confirmed another burial incident in which soldiers dumped mounds of dirt on four Palestinian youths Feb 5 in a West Bank village. Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said three soldiers were arrested in that attack, which is also under investigation.

Also in Gaza today, the Army released the body of Atef Fayyad, 30, who died on Friday. An Army spokesman said an autopsy found the man was electrocuted. The Palestine Press Service said he was shot during a demonstration.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres heard Palestinian complaints of Army brutality when he visited the area.

Security forces surrounded Peres, head of the Labour Party, as he edged through the central square of Nablus, the West Bank's largest city where hundreds of residents jostled for a chance to speak to him.

"Soldiers are coming into our town every night, smashing our cars, beating our women and children," a banana seller told him.

US 'wants' Israel to quit Arab lands

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Feb 23, (Reuters) — A US envoy has reiterated Washington's support for Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands at a meeting with Palestinian leaders but Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir vowed to resist pressure to pull out.

Several Palestinian leaders from the occupied West Bank said that special US envoy Wat Cluervius assured them in private talks on Saturday the US would back their demand for Israeli withdrawal from territories seized in the 1967 war.

Cluervius was quoted by several participants as saying "Camp David is dead," a reference to a first round of talks in 1978 between Egypt, Israel and the United States on Palestinian self-rule, or autonomy, in the occupied areas.

One participant at the meet-

ing, who asked not to be named, said: "Mr Cluervius made very clear the United States is committed to the spirit of United Nations Security Council resolution 242 which means the Arabs will grant Israel peace when Israel hands back the lands it seized in 1967."

"When we spoke of a Palestinian state, Mr Cluervius replied this should not be part of general negotiations, but should be decided among Arabs," he said.

But Shamir told Parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee yesterday, three days before US Secretary of State George Shultz arrives in Israel with new peace proposals: "Israel will not adopt a decision to withdraw, even under pressure. Where in the world is there a state that would give up its land

(Continued on Page 2)

Israeli armoured patrol ambushed

BEIRUT, Feb 23, (AP) — Guerrillas have ambushed an Israeli armoured patrol in south Lebanon, killing two soldiers and wounding several others, security sources said today.

The sources, speaking on condition they not be identified further, said the patrol of one tank and an armoured personnel carrier was ambushed near the village of Braachit at sundown yesterday.

"Both vehicles were raked with rocket-propelled grenades that set off a chain of ammunition explosions in the tank," said one source. "No one could have escaped alive from the burning tank."

DAY BY DAY

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Zahed Matar

INSIDE

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a seven-page supplement on Kuwait

International	2
Kuwait-Gulf	3,4
Events	5
Editorials	6
Features	14
Business	15,18
Stocks	16,17
Classifieds	19
Urdu	20,21,22
Sports	23,24

آج کے اردو صفحات میں

○ گورنر جنرل کی پیش کش الٹی
○ میٹر ہے زمین دورانی
○ افغانستان کا ناظم الامور فرار ہو گیا
○ افغان مجاہدین نے نئی حکومت کے منصوبے کا اعلان کر دیا

سری لنکا میں لڑائی کے دوران ۲۰۰ افراد ہلاک

○ بھارتی پارلیمنٹ سے اپوزیشن کلاک آؤٹ
○ یو سفیات ○ ادبیات

WEATHER

DECREASE in temperature with moderate northwesterly wind and some clouds will appear.
State of sea: moderate to rough
High water: 4.00 am, 5.00 pm
Low water: 11.30 am, 1.30 am
Sunrise: 6.19 am
Sunset: 5.44 pm
Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 27°C 81°F
Ahmad: 27°C 81°F
Faiaka: 26°C 79°F
Minimum temperature expected: Kuwait: 20°C 68°F
Ahmad: 19°C 66°F
Faiaka: 19°C 66°F
Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 11°C 52°F
Ahmad: 14°C 57°F
Faiaka: 14°C 57°F
Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 20 per cent
Ahmad: 25 per cent
Faiaka: 30 per cent
Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 40 per cent
Ahmad: 55 per cent
Faiaka: 60 per cent

Nato ministers briefed on superpower talks

BRUSSELS, Feb 23, (UPI): US Secretary of State George Shultz briefed his NATO colleagues on his two days of talks in Moscow today and began to turn his attention to other problems.

Shultz left Moscow saying that the summit preparation talks there were "generally positive" and that he would give the two days of intensive talks "a good mark."

Officials aboard his plane from Moscow were more enthusiastic. One official told reporters, "verification (of a strategic arms control agreement) is the name of the game now and the Soviets agree."

Afghanistan

The two sides assigned their experts the complex and lengthy task of putting together a detailed plan for identifying all the missiles and other weapons to be scrapped, a plan for their positive destruction, and a total inventory of the weapons which make up the most profound military secrets of the superpowers.

On Afghanistan, Shultz left Moscow convinced that the Soviets will pull out of Afghanistan.

tan this year. One official said the Soviets held back detailed information about the withdrawal because they didn't want it to leak out through the Western media.

The official added that once the Soviet plans become public, they will lose all leverage over the Kabul government.

On human rights issues, the officials said Shultz received assurances from the Soviets that for 1988, at least, the Moscow government will ease up further on Jewish emigration. The current emigration figures are around 8,500, on an annual rate. The official said that the Soviet authorities had indicated, however, they will not ease up on emigration for ethnic Russians because they fear a "brain drain" and a further reduction in the Russian ethnic majority of the Soviet Union.

New site

Shultz, who briefed his NATO allies on the Moscow talks, was also expected to inform the NATO Council that Italy has agreed, in principle, to accept the 72 F-16 fighter-bombers which are being evicted from their base at

Torrejón, Spain.

The officials said that one site on the island of Sardinia, near Comiso, is being considered and another near the Italian city of Brindisi.

Shultz is scheduled to fly to Washington for one day and then climb back aboard his plane for a week's trip to the Middle East.

It is expected he will arrive in Israel late Thursday and, basing himself in Israel, will shuttle to Amman, Jordan, Cairo and will probably fly to London to see King Hussein, who will be undergoing elective oral surgery next week.

Sources said that it is possible Shultz will decide to return to the Middle East a second time in early March, after the March 2-3 NATO summit, if his first week's shuttling made progress in reviving the peace process.

Warsaw Pact

Meanwhile, the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Prague today to brief his Warsaw Pact colleagues on his meeting in Moscow with Shultz.

The official Czechoslovak news agency, CTK, reported that

Shevardnadze was greeted by Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chmoupek.

Foreign ministry sources in Prague said the meeting was not expected to last more than one day, as the foreign ministers of Bulgaria and Romania are due to attend an unprecedented meeting of Balkan foreign ministers in Belgrade. That meeting begins Wednesday.

CTK reported that Polish Foreign Minister Marian Polchowski, East German State Secretary Herbert Krollowsky and Romanian Foreign Minister Ioan Totu have also arrived in the Czech capital.

Clarifications

At a news conference concluding his two days of talks with Soviet officials to prepare a summit in late spring, Shultz said his meetings with Shevardnadze and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev produced "helpful clarifications" on human rights issues.

Shultz described humanitarian concerns — divided families, Jews refused permission to emigrate, free expression and practice of religion — as the most important subject on his agenda.



● One of several injured policemen is taken off a helicopter in Noumea after a rioting incident with separatists. (Reuters wirephoto)

BBC nominated for Nobel peace prize

LONDON, Feb 23, (Reuters): The British Broadcasting Corporation's (BBC) external radio division was nominated on Monday for the Nobel peace prize for promoting understanding between nations, a BBC spokeswoman said.

She said 22 British members of Parliament had nominated the External Services in a letter to the Oslo-based Nobel Committee in recognition of the division's 55 years of worldwide broadcasting.

The External Services have contributed to global understanding by providing an objective, unbiased, factual and accurate service of world news. This has reported the nations to one another in a calm and judicious manner, free from chauvinism and informed with a high regard for the truth," she quoted the letter as saying.

The External Services broadcast in 37 languages and are heard all over the world. The peace prize is awarded in October.

Candidates can be nominated by members of Parliament, university professors, members of the International Court of Justice and peace prize holders.

Iran offers help to free Higgins

JAKARTA, Feb 23 (Reuters): Iran will help any humanitarian effort to find a solution to the kidnapping in Lebanon of US Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins, it is in a position to do so, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said today.

"If the Iranian government could do any humanitarian efforts, of course we will do," Velayati said after a meeting with Indonesian President Suharto.

Asked by reporters if the Iranian government was making any effort to contribute to a solution to the kidnapping last Wednesday of the US Marine officer, he said he was still unsure about details of the abduction near the south Lebanon port of Tyre.

"Really we don't know exactly what has happened in Lebanon but we have been informed through the mass media," Velayati said.

Attack

Higgins, head of the Lebanon unit of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), has been accused by his captors of spying, a charge denied by the United States.

Meanwhile, pro-Iranian

Shi'ite Muslim scholars at an emergency meeting in the southern port town of Tyre have attacked the Amal militia and the United States six days after the abduction of an American officer.

Amal militants have launched a massive hunt for Higgins, since he was seized last Wednesday.

Amal squads have raided scores of houses and hideouts of pro-Iranian militants in and around Tyre in search of the 43-year-old officer. They seized several people, including at least 10 members of Hezbollah.

About 45 scholars from the south, Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, Beirut, and Mount Hermon regions met yesterday at a mosque in Tyre, 70 km south of Beirut, and condemned Amal for its measures against pro-Iranian militants in the area.

A pro-Iranian group, Organisation of the Oppressed of the World (OOOW), issued a statement and videotape of Higgins yesterday in which the US Marine pleaded with Washington and Israel to meet his captors' demands.

Bush under pressure for S. Carolina ballot

Dole likely to sweep Midwest

WASHINGTON, Feb 23, (UPI): Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, expected to fare well in Tuesday's South Dakota and Minnesota presidential voting, has put new pressure on Vice President George Bush for next week's South Carolina ballot.

Favoured in advance in both Midwestern states, the Kansas Senator now has the endorsement of his Capitol Hill colleague Strom Thurmond, Republicans-South Carolina, hoping to deplete Bush's strength in a state where virtually all the other Republican leaders are behind the Vice-President.

Bush acknowledged the impact of Monday's announcement, saying the 85-year-old Thurmond, a legend in the state and the Dean of Senate Republicans, had made the March 5 contest "more important for everybody" heading into "Super Tuesday," the March 8 elections in 20 mostly southern states.

South Carolina Governor Carroll Campbell, the Vice President's southern regional campaign director, called a news conference today to discuss the Bush strategy while the candidate himself arranged to visit Bush, Kentucky, in a bid to draw some focus away from the South Dakota primaries and Minnesota caucuses.

Tuesday's voting was the first since the New Hampshire primary a week ago, in which Bush turned back Dole's challenge after finishing behind the Senator and former television evangelist Pat Robertson in the Feb 8 Iowa caucuses.

Robertson, who has thrown down the gauntlet in South Carolina by declaring it a "must win" for him, campaigned in the state's northwest textile area Monday, appealing more strongly to evangelicals than he has in recent days.

"Our basic freedoms stem from God and not the constitution," he proclaimed at Clemson University. "Our freedom comes from God Almighty. Government didn't give you those rights, and government can't take them away."

Over on the democratic side, polls released Monday showed Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis had forged ahead for Tuesday's Minnesota vote and was closer than previously thought in South Dakota with Missouri Representative Richard Gephardt.

In Washington at the National governor's conference, Dukakis took an apparent jab at Tennessee Senator Albert Gore, who has termed the New Englander a regional candidate while staking his own campaign on the south.

Dukakis said if he did well Tuesday it would be "proof positive that this is a national campaign."

After talks in Moscow that focused heavily on regional issues, Shultz told a news conference yesterday that he was confident the Soviets would withdraw their forces and the UN-sponsored negotiations resuming in Geneva on March 2 would be the last round.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Zain Noorani began a visit to Saudi Arabia today to try to rally Saudi support for Pakistan's mediation role in ending the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Noorani, who will head his country's negotiating team at crucial United Nations talks next month, met his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal immediately after his arrival.

In Islamabad, Noorani said that Gorbachev's latest Afghan peace move was deficient and amounted to an ultimatum.

"This is not a sign of peaceful negotiations but an ultimatum," Noorani, quoted by the official APP news agency, also accused Moscow of going back to what he called a decision linked to the UN peace process to remove Afghan President Najibullah's government.

War-free Europe

WASHINGTON, Feb 23, (Reuters): President Reagan assured the people of Europe today that the United States will keep its NATO forces strong and ready as it pursues arms control agreements with the Soviet Union.

"Our goal is not a nuclear-free, or a tank-free, or an Army-free Europe, but a war-free Europe," Reagan said in a televised bid to ease allied fears that his quest for arms accords will leave NATO vulnerable to a Soviet attack.

Shultz has been talking to Kremlin leaders in Moscow and the official news agency Tass quoted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as telling him the Middle East proposals failed to take account of the interests of all parties and relied on "interim measures and steps."

The United States floated its new peace ideas after a Palestinian uprising began in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in December.

Israeli officials say the plan provides for an interim period of Palestinian self-rule in the territories followed by negotiations within a year aimed at a settlement.

But Yasser Obeid of Ramallah, a participant at Saturday's meeting at the US consulate in East Jerusalem, said "The United States in effect told us at the meeting with Mr. Cluwerus that, in the final analysis, all occupied territory from the West Bank and Gaza to the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon will have to be handed back to the Arabs."

In Washington, a US government official said he questioned the reported statement that Washington would push for Israel to withdraw from all occupied lands. The US position is that Israel has a legitimate right to some of the territory for its own security.

Interim

Palestinians at the meeting said among other points made by Cluwerus were the election of a 50-member Palestinian interim self-governing council of which 12 members would be "responsible officers" holding ministerial style portfolios.

In Tunis, a senior PLO official said today no Palestinian would meet Shultz as long as Washington continued to play what he described as a negative role in the Middle East.

"The United States administration, by neglecting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state, is playing a destructive role which will lead to wider violence in the region," Bassam Abu Sharif, an adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, said.

US 'wants' Israel to quit Arab lands

(Continued from Page 1)

so easily? Other countries would laugh at the very idea."

Shultz is due to visit Israel and several Arab capitals to push new peace ideas. Cluwerus met the Palestinians to brief them on some of the proposals before Shultz arrives.

Shultz has been talking to Kremlin leaders in Moscow and the official news agency Tass quoted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as telling him the Middle East proposals failed to take account of the interests of all parties and relied on "interim measures and steps."

The United States floated its new peace ideas after a Palestinian uprising began in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in December.

Israeli officials say the plan provides for an interim period of Palestinian self-rule in the territories followed by negotiations within a year aimed at a settlement.

But Yasser Obeid of Ramallah, a participant at Saturday's meeting at the US consulate in East Jerusalem, said "The United States in effect told us at the meeting with Mr. Cluwerus that, in the final analysis, all occupied territory from the West Bank and Gaza to the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon will have to be handed back to the Arabs."

In Washington, a US government official said he questioned the reported statement that Washington would push for Israel to withdraw from all occupied lands. The US position is that Israel has a legitimate right to some of the territory for its own security.

Interim

Palestinians at the meeting said among other points made by Cluwerus were the election of a 50-member Palestinian interim self-governing council of which 12 members would be "responsible officers" holding ministerial style portfolios.

In Tunis, a senior PLO official said today no Palestinian would meet Shultz as long as Washington continued to play what he described as a negative role in the Middle East.

"The United States administration, by neglecting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state, is playing a destructive role which will lead to wider violence in the region," Bassam Abu Sharif, an adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, said.

Afghan rebels seek to sign accord

(Continued from Page 1)

up procedures for electing a constituent assembly that will frame a new constitution for "Islamic State of Afghanistan," it said.

After talks in Moscow that focused heavily on regional issues, Shultz told a news conference yesterday that he was confident the Soviets would withdraw their forces and the UN-sponsored negotiations resuming in Geneva on March 2 would be the last round.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Zain Noorani began a visit to Saudi Arabia today to try to rally Saudi support for Pakistan's mediation role in ending the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Noorani, who will head his country's negotiating team at crucial United Nations talks next month, met his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal immediately after his arrival.

In Islamabad, Noorani said that Gorbachev's latest Afghan peace move was deficient and amounted to an ultimatum.

"This is not a sign of peaceful negotiations but an ultimatum," Noorani, quoted by the official APP news agency, also accused Moscow of going back to what he called a decision linked to the UN peace process to remove Afghan President Najibullah's government.

War-free Europe

WASHINGTON, Feb 23, (Reuters): President Reagan assured the people of Europe today that the United States will keep its NATO forces strong and ready as it pursues arms control agreements with the Soviet Union.

"Our goal is not a nuclear-free, or a tank-free, or an Army-free Europe, but a war-free Europe," Reagan said in a televised bid to ease allied fears that his quest for arms accords will leave NATO vulnerable to a Soviet attack.

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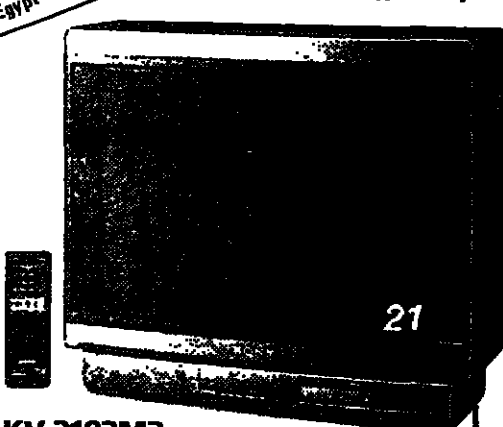
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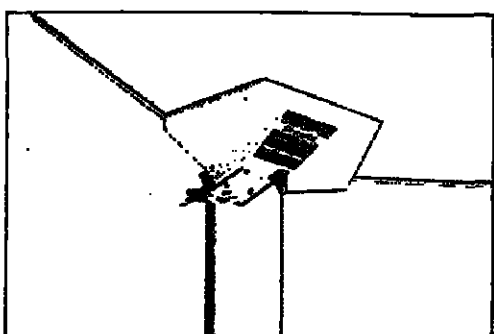
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Applicability of War Powers Act to the Gulf

US congressmen divided

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. (Kuna): Congressional divisions over the applicability of the US War Powers Act to the Arabian Gulf has been highlighted here with one representative arguing the "compromise" bill permitted US troops to remain there if need be and another charging the measure cut Congress out of decision-making on the issue.

The congressmen, both members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, explained their views in separate articles for the Christian Science Monitor yesterday.

According to Rep. Steven Solarz, the War Powers Act debate has been muted recently owing to two related factors — the overall success of President Reagan's policy of re-registering some of Kuwait's oil tankers against Iranian provocations, and the "noticeable absence in recent months of attacks on US escort vessels."

Commit

When the policy was inaugurated over a year ago, many US politicians believed the post-Vietnam era War Powers Act should be invoked in case the US military became involved in engagements with either belligerent in the Iran-Iraq war.

But Solarz said he was troubled that an Iranian attack on US forces in the Gulf was still possi-

ble, and said a bill he introduced last October would resolve "lingering questions" about the war powers question.

He noted that Reagan had until now chosen not to invoke the measure — which a US president is supposed to do before committing troops to a trouble spot for more than 90 days.

Solarz argued that a "decisive" congressional vote on his measure would be useful, because it would give Congress a greater voice in decisions to commit US forces into future hostilities abroad.

He also counselled that invoking the War Powers Act would not remove US Gulf forces, but would only trigger Congress to pass resolutions "authorising and supporting their presence there."

Clearance

But Massachusetts Rep. Gerry Studds did not see things that way, claiming in his own monitor article Solarz' bill would "preclude" rather than facilitate congressional help in "guiding" US policy in the Gulf.

Studds claimed through Solarz' bill the War Powers Act would be invoked "in name only," allowing a US president to "abandon consultations with Congress" and give him open-

ended clearance to maintain in the Gulf "the largest naval armada the US has assembled anywhere since the Vietnam war."

Consultation, according to the Massachusetts legislator, "means that the President comes to Congress when a decision is pending, requesting advice, opinions or approval for the action being considered."

Failed

Calling the War Powers Act a "failed framework" for presidential and congressional sharing in war-making authority, Studds concluded two possible suggestions were better for such a purpose.

One involved referring to the original Senate version of the War Powers Act, which mandated both legislative and executive branches to agree on the wisdom of inserting US forces in crisis areas.

Meantime, he said "Congress could act to strengthen the existing requirements that a president consult with congress."

"Congress," in the end, "should organise itself to fully critique applications of American force before they occur, and always reserve its capacity to halt ill-considered military adventures," Studds concluded.

OIC supports Arab efforts to keep PLO office open in UN

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 23. (Kuna): The Islamic states yesterday expressed strong support for an Arab request to resume the General Assembly session in an effort to block a US attempt to close the Palestine Liberation Organisation's observer mission.

The action came during meeting of representatives of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) chaired by Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad A. Abulhassan who last week sent a letter to this effect to Assembly's President Peter Florin of East Germany.

Later in the day, the Asian group unanimously elected Ambassador Abulhassan as chairman of the Third Committee during the forty-third General Assembly which begins next fall.

The unanimous election of the Kuwaiti diplomat was seen by the meeting as another indication of Kuwait's growing role in international affairs.

upcoming resumed session. "We discussed tactics and details," an Arab diplomat said.

So far, all the regional groups have expressed support for the Arab request.

Requested

In a letter to Florin, the assembly's president, who is expected to arrive here tomorrow the Arab group last week requested the resumption of current session no later than February 29.

Florin's chief of cabinet and the chairmen of the various regional groups were scheduled Tuesday to determine time and length of the resumed assembly, which technically is still in session but was suspended in December.

It is expected that the PLO and the chairmen of the various regional groups will take part in the forthcoming debate.

In the letter to Florin, the Arab group referred to a recent report

by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in his discussions with the United Nations legal advisor of a law adopted by the US Congress last December which might impede the functioning of the PLO observer mission.

Violate

The Secretary-General said in his report the US State Department had expressed the view that closing the PLO office would violate America's legal obligation under the 1947 headquarters agreement.

He said since the legislation is due to take effect March 21 — in the absence of a decision by the US government — he had informed US representatives he would either have to go ahead with international arbitration procedures, or notify the General Assembly that an impasse had been reached.

Arabsat postpones launch of new satellite

DUBAI, Feb. 23. (Reuters): The Arab space communication and Satellite Organisation (Arabsat) is postponing until 1995 the launch of a new satellite but plans to extend the life of two already in orbit.

The group, which has had two satellites in orbit since 1985 with an original seven-year life span, said after its Monday board meeting it would extend their lives by three years.

Officials gave finance as the reason for the launch delay and extended use of the existing

satellites.

Arabsat 1 was launched in February, 1985 and the second four months later. The two are controlled by two main ground stations in Riyadh and Tunis, while 15 Arab states have so far built receiver stations.

Arabsat, which has a capital of \$165 million, was set up in 1976 and groups the 21 Arab League members plus the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The group's general assembly will be held in Damascus in April.

A unique way of spreading the message of peace

By Gail Seery

IT'S rare to meet a group of people who are totally committed to a mission of peace. It's even rarer to find a group who are prepared to travel across 3 continents in order to bring just a message to the people of the countries they visit, and who have even contrived to make the journey as uncomfortable as possible for themselves, by choosing one of the less comfortable modes of transport available.

The Jamali Young Group of Cyclists consists of six college friends from Bombay, India, and are all under 24 years of age. They aim to travel through 56 countries in 6 years, and to cover a total distance of 124,000km, all by bicycle.

During their visit to the Arab Times offices in Shuwaikh yesterday, mission leader Tiwafi F. Bootwala said, "We would also like to break the world record. The current record is 70,000kms covered over a period of 5 years." The satisfaction of breaking the record is to be the team's only reward, other than the knowledge and education they will inevitably receive on their travels.

The six have already been travelling for a year, and have visited India, Pakistan, Iraq and now Kuwait. They say they would like to visit all countries, but for diplomatic reasons they could not visit Iran. "We have no political motivation," they say.

Sacrifice

The team is at pains to point out that each member is a Muslim from Dawoodi Bohra Community in Bombay, and that the mission was inspired by "His Holiness Dr Mohammed Bur-

hanuddin, Sultan Al Bohra" to spread a message of peace. They were offered money by industrialists in India, but refused this as they did not want their mission to be confused as having a commercial nature in any sense.

However, they are well aware of the sacrifice that they are making. "We are losing our youth, and our homes," they said. "Our families were not happy for us to leave, but they had to accept it because of the spiritual nature of what we are trying to do."

They are very much immersed in what they call "the philosophy of adventure" and are not afraid of the hardships of their journey. "If a person is alone anything can happen, but we are six," Tiwafi explained, "the hardest thing is that we are away from our homes."

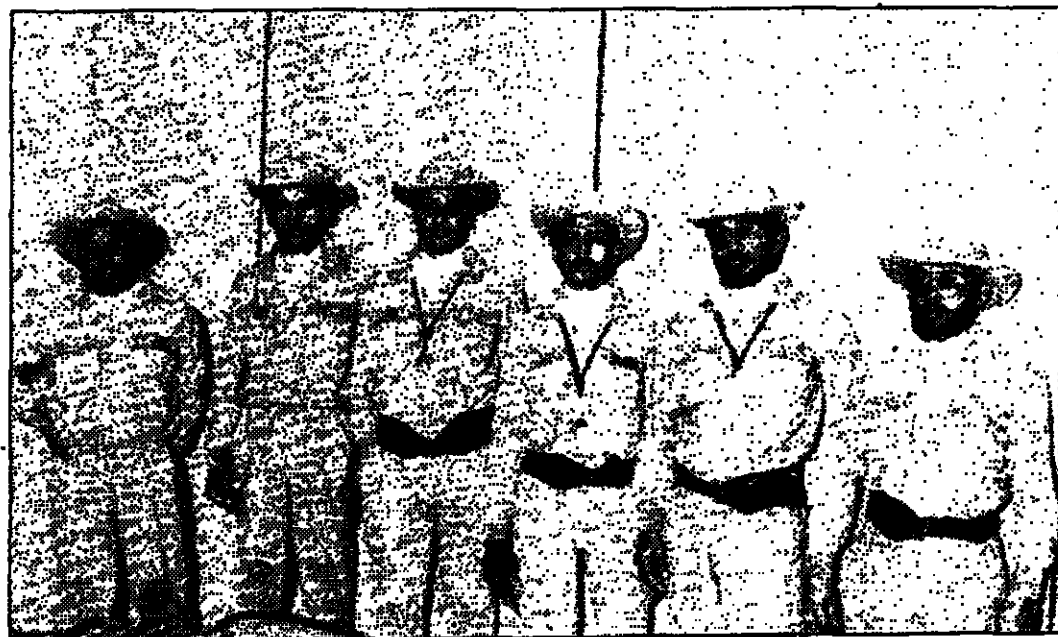
Danger

During the year of travelling there was only one moment when they thought they were in any danger. Fortunately, sound thinking by the leader, like the others a BSc, prevented the situation from turning ugly.

The mission is supported by the religious community to which the friends belong, and by charitable donations, though the team is at pains to explain that they do not actively seek such gifts. "We would not refuse, neither would we ask," they say. "We are doing this for the good of God."

All were friends, attending the same college before the mission started last year, and they say they find it very easy to get along with each other. "We were all interested in Sports, and wanted to bring India a world record," they say.

As they travel they are keeping



The adventures of six cyclists (Photo by Zafar Iqbal)

photographic and written records, and hope that they will have a different concept of world problems when they return. "We were confused," says Tiwafi. "We could see that much of the world is involved in conflicts but we couldn't tell whether it is the fault of the government or the people." And yet they have found that the people they have met have been intrinsically good.

Encouraged

The six say that one of the highspots of their travels so far has been meeting Sheikh Fahd. "He is a gem of a man," they say, adding that he had sat and talked with them for some time, and had been extremely supportive of their mission, and that he had encouraged them to continue

even though he knew that at times they would have to contend with high temperatures and very difficult climatic conditions.

"We were reading books in college, they say, but now we are reading the book of nature."

"We didn't know how to ride a bike at first," they admitted. "And after three or four days our bodies were aching, but we kept going. There had never been a time when they wanted to give up because of the enthusiasm of the people they met, both at government and at ordinary levels had spurred them on."

They arrived in Kuwait last Thursday, and will leave in five days time. During the stay they will attend the National day programme of events, and

tomorrow they will be visiting Entertainment City.

The six, Tiwafi Bootwala, Hakim Kachwala, Dawood Mandsunwala, Khozema Baldiwala, Taher Lakadghat, and Zuher Mahuwala, said they would like to send their best wishes for National Day to HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince, and each and every citizen of Kuwait. They thanked the Arab Times for giving them the opportunity to bring the news of their goodwill mission to a wider audience than they could reach in person. They went on to thank the Indian Embassy, the Foreign Ministry, and in particular Sheikh Fahd, for all the help and co-operation they had received during their time in Kuwait.



HH the Amir yesterday met Morocco's Foreign Minister, Abdul Latif Al Filali. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

Kuwait and Morocco agree on issues discussed

MOROCCAN Foreign Minister, Abdul Latif Al Filali, left Kuwait yesterday for Abu Dhabi after one day of talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and other senior officials.

He was seen off at the airport by Sheikh Sabah and senior officials of the foreign ministry. His talks with HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince tackled regional, Arab and Islamic questions, according to a statement he made to reporters before departure.

"I have found complete agreement and understanding" from the Kuwaiti side on these issues, he said.

While underscoring the need for continued consultation and communication among the

leaders of the Arab world, the Moroccan foreign minister noted that his visit to Kuwait and other Arab capitals comes according to the wishes of King Hassan II and based on this policy of communication.

Asked whether his visit is related to the Islamic summit, Filali ruled out any connection between his visit and the prospect of an Islamic summit.

Replying to another question on efforts to reduce tensions with Algeria, over the Western Sahara issue, he said, "We hope that we can start a new dialogue with Algeria to resolve all problems."

Morocco, he added, is always optimistic over this question and this optimism will lead to a solution.

Study leave, scholarship plans nearing completion

RASHEED Al Hamad, the Assistant Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Education for Planning and Development, will soon complete the study leave and scholarship plans for the ministry based on the needs of the different ministry departments.

Al Hamad said that the 1987 training plan for the ministry includes 45 training courses, covering different subject areas and activities for kindergarten, primary, intermediate and secondary level.

Chalet charges reduced to 50 pc

IN compliance with guidance of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, citizens will pay 50 per cent for using state-owned lands to set up their chalets starting next July.

Minister of Finance Jassim Al Khorafi endorsed a resolution yesterday reducing the state charges of 100 fils per square metre to 50 fils a year.

Oman-Algeria talks continue

MUSCAT, Feb. 23. (Kuna): The second round of official Oman-Algeria talks was held here today co-chaired by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Al Ahrabi and his Omani counterpart, Youssef Bin Alawi, radio Muscat reported.

The Omani-Algerian talks covered bilateral relations and ways of developing them in various fields in addition to the reviewing issues of mutual interest and the latest developments in the Arab, Islamic and international arena, the radio added.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from both sides.

Relief aid arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS, Feb. 23. (Kuna): The fourth and last convoy of Kuwaiti relief aid bound for Lebanon arrived today in Syrian territories.

The last consignment of the aid, comprising 42 trucks and 30 buses, completed the aid package of 218 truck loads of food, medical supplies, clothing and stationery in addition to 60 buses.

The convoy will reach the Lebanese-Syrian border Wednesday.

Soviet envoy ends Saudi Arabia visit

BAHRAIN, Feb. 23. (Reuters): Soviet envoy Vladimir Polyakov left Saudi Arabia yesterday after a two-day visit, believed by diplomats to be the first by a Kremlin official to the kingdom in 50 years.

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA), reporting his departure, gave no details of his talks with Saudi leaders.

Saudi Arabia does not have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, or any Eastern Bloc country, but Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal visited Moscow three weeks ago as a representative of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Kuwaiti envoy meets Craxi

ROME, Feb. 23. (Kuna): A Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy Ahmed Gaith Abdullah met here today with the Secretary-General of the Italian Socialist Party and former Premier Bettino Craxi.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways of fostering bilateral relations, developments of the Gulf war and its impact on Kuwait and the Gulf region, in addition to the uprising in the occupied territories.

The Kuwaiti ambassador invited Craxi to visit Kuwait during his upcoming tour of the Middle East, which will include Jordan and Tunisia.

The Italian official accepted the invitation and emphasised the necessity of maintaining contacts with the Kuwaiti envoy for an exchange on issues of mutual concern.

Farm produce to be sold at camping areas

KUWAIT'S Municipal Affairs Committee has approved a request by the Agricultural Products Company to market produce at camping areas during the spring holiday from December to April annually.

The committee stipulated that the company must remove all stands used to sell produce at the end of the season and cited other regulations that must be followed.

The committee refused the company's request to sell and market produce in front of mosques and at special centres at cooperative societies.

Dr Awadi for Riyadh

KUWAIT'S Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi is scheduled to leave for Riyadh today to take part in deliberations of the Higher Guidance Committee for upgrading Arab childhood.

During the meeting, the conferees will discuss and approve recommendations submitted by the technical committee regarding future measures aimed at implementing projects of upgrading Arab Childhood.

An agreement on the project's execution will be signed between the Arab Gulf Programme for supporting UN development organisations (Agfund) and the UN Fund for population activities.

The meeting will be held within activities of the Arab Gulf Programme.

Sharhan receives envoys

MINISTER of Communications Abdulla Abdul Mohsen Al Sharhan yesterday received Ambassadors of Turkey, People's Republic of China, Sweden, Bulgaria, France and the Republic of Niger to Kuwait.

Later in the day, the minister also received the Gulf Cooperation Council ambassadors to Kuwait.

During the meeting, the ambassadors congratulated the minister of assuming the post.

ROYAL COURT

Crown Prince audiences

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday received Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait, Al Habib Kaabash.

Sheikh Saad also received Mohammed Youssef Al Adsani, Habib Jawhar Hayat and Khalifa Talal Al Jari.

Sheikh Saad presided over the Higher Housing Council meeting.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Qatar's achievements hailed

KUWAITI newspaper Al Rai Al Aam yesterday editorially hailed the achievements realised by the Arabian Gulf state of Qatar at all levels under the leadership of its Amir Sheikh Hamad Al Thani.

Qatar's policy has been clear-cut and far-sighted in relation to the sources of tension and perils and means of handling them which positively reflected itself on the Arab and Gulf issues, said the paper.

Couple plead not guilty to murder of Irish nurse

BAHRAIN, Feb. 23. (Reuters): An Anglo-Irish couple charged with the murder of an Irish nurse in Saudi Arabia pleaded not guilty at the opening session of their trial yesterday, a British embassy spokesman said.

The spokesman said Peter Hall and his Irish wife Monica, who face possible death penalties if convicted, told the court their previous admission of guilt to the killing of Irish nurse Helen Feeney had been made under duress.

The two were arrested and detained by Saudi authorities after the battered body of Feeney, a matron at Taif maternity hospital, was found in her flat in April 1986.

Bahrain's English language Gulf Daily News said yesterday Feeney's sister flew to Taif last week to ask the three judges presiding over the trial to spare the lives of the accused couple, who have been held in prison for eighteen months.

Spared

"I have prayed a lot for them. There is no need for them to be executed. I don't approve of taking life at all, whatever they have done," the paper quoted Teresa

Tommy as saying after returning to Ireland.

The spokesman said that Tony's appeal meant the lives of the couple would probably be spared even if they were found guilty because under Islamic sharia law, the murdered victim's family has the right to choose the killer's punishment.

"We understand that the state has no right to execute or require blood money if the victim's family has appealed otherwise," the spokesman said.

Imprisonment

"However, the state still has the right to impose imprisonment," he added. He said he had no idea how long a prison term the couple might face if found guilty or how long it would take the court to reach a verdict.

The day's proceedings lasted only an hour and ten minutes as the prosecution and defence presented their cases, he said. He gave no further details.

"The court decided it had to study the proceedings in detail and the trial was adjourned until next Monday," he said.

The trial, originally set for January 2, was postponed twice.

3,000 enrol for education centre courses

THREE thousand people have enrolled for courses offered by the social service and continuing education centre at Kuwait University.

About half the number have taken the course in English language, consisting of 65 lectures.

The English language course is directed by Ahmad Joma, the head of the special programmes unit at the languages centre. He is assisted by five supervisors from different English language units at the university.

Computer

The centre offers courses in other languages, such as French, German and Spanish.

It also has courses on computer programming, secretarial science and business administration.

It holds a number of study session for government and private establishment.

It is holding classes for 30 members of the National Guard. They will attend morning lectures for ten weeks. The course is supervised by Hassan Ayoub of the English language unit at the

law college.

An English language course is being held for 30 members of the Civil Service Commission. They will attend lectures once a week for 14 weeks. This course is being supervised by Ahmad Joma.

Saudi Arabia will protect pilgrims

RIYADH, Feb. 23. (Kuna): Saudi Minister of Pilgrim Affairs and Awaqaf Abdul Wahab Abdul Wassa today stated that his country has every right to take security measures to serve the pilgrims and look after the holy places.

At the conclusion of his Asian tour he told Saudi Press Agency (SPA) in Karachi that all countries he toured agreed with the Saudi government in protecting the pilgrims and taking necessary security measures.

Abdul Wassa toured Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Pakistan.

Mughal Mahal

Offer their greetings on the occasion of
Kuwait's 27th National Day to His Highness the
Amir of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown
Prince & the People of Kuwait

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● HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, yesterday met the mukhtars of various areas. The meeting was attended by a number of ministers and governors. They discussed a number of matters connected with development and utilisation of some public services in several areas.

National Day celebrations

Illuminations adorn buildings

By Keith Wells

AS night falls over the city the lights begin to come on and soon all of the major buildings are glittering in the twilight as the National Day illuminations blaze into their full glory. It is as if the whole city were decorated like a bride's house. The lights hang like giant necklaces over 20-storey office buildings or form enormous Kuwaiti flags turning the city into a fantasy fairland. Every year, Kuwait pulls out all the stops for National Day, new buildings and projects are officially opened, there are concerts, exhibitions, festivals and dances and this year is no exception. However, since the pace of development has inevitably slowed down a little since so many major construction projects have already been completed, this year the only major project to be commissioned is the first phase of the Waterfront Project. This grandiose scheme was formally opened by HH the Amir on Monday afternoon in a lavish spectacle of folkloric dancing, music and festivity.

Handicrafts
On Wednesday the chairman of the higher committee for National Day Celebrations, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Sabah, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour will open a

special Old Kuwaiti Handicrafts Week at the National Museum.

On National Day itself the National Guard will hold a military parade in Shaab Gardens. During the morning there will be a display of light weapons, then in the afternoon the National Guard will entertain the public with military bands and a display of commando exercises. This will be followed by a grand fireworks display and the release of thousands of coloured balloons.

Pageant
On the morning of National Day there will be a spectacular pageant entitled "The Voyagers' Return." This will be held at the model traditional town site just opposite the National Assembly building. It will recreate all the excitement and celebrations that used to take place whenever the old pearling fleet used to return to the city after long, weary months at the pearling banks.

Then on Friday there will be another pageant on the flag square next to the Al Salaam Palace. This will consist of a flag-hoisting ceremony followed by folkloric dancing based on the theme of Old Kuwait.

Feb 25 commemorates 27 years of independence, peace and prosperity. No other country in the world has changed so much in so short a time and National Day is a perfect occasion for

everyone, citizens and expatriates alike to celebrate this progress.

Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houti will inaugurate today the Fahahel highway in a ceremony as part of the country's celebrations of the National Day.

The 27.5 kilometre long road cost KD 36,087,845 (around \$125 million) and was halved into southern and northern sectors with each work assigned to a separate contractor.

The project included introducing new crossroads, construction of eight flyovers and two pedestrian bridges in addition to other necessary services.

Sadu House
"Technical methods on Bedouin weaving" will be the title of a book to be issued by "Sadu House", specialised in documenting and studying aspects of Kuwaiti traditional heritage.

The house said that the book, compilation of which started in 1985, aims at preserving all that relates to the land-weaving profession. It will be published on the occasion of Kuwait's National Day.

The house-sponsored studies aim at documenting all that relates to this traditional heritage in the Arabian Peninsula, particularly that Arab and international libraries lack serious studies on this topic.

Iraq has no intentions to harm Iranians

(Continued from Page 1)

can guess the result of a fresh Iranian aggression in light of such factors," he said.

He questioned how long the Iranian regime would be able to bear the burden of such aggression without achieving anything, especially when this is added to the worsening internal situation in Iran.

Document

The Iraqi President said the UN Resolution 598 was immediately welcomed by Iraq. "We have informed the UN secretary-general of the unequivocal acceptance of the resolution," he said. He added that Iran has still not sent one single document stating their acceptance of the resolution.

He asked: "Why was the UN and the Security Council still asking after seven months what steps should be taken against the side rejecting the resolution?"

He added that some even talk about "the side rejecting the resolution" without naming Iran, as if it was unknown. These are factors which encourage Iran to continue its rejection of resolution 598, he said.

When questioned about Iraq's relations with the Soviet Union, President Saddam said the Soviets "are our friends". He said that as everyone understands between friends there is a special way of expressing opinions. "Sometimes stronger reactions are taken against friends when they commit a mistake than against those with whom we are not friends," he said.

He went on to say that when the Soviets make decisions that we feel are detrimental to us, our duty is to bring this to their attention.

The President said this was the same way relations between Iraq and any other country are handled.

Impose

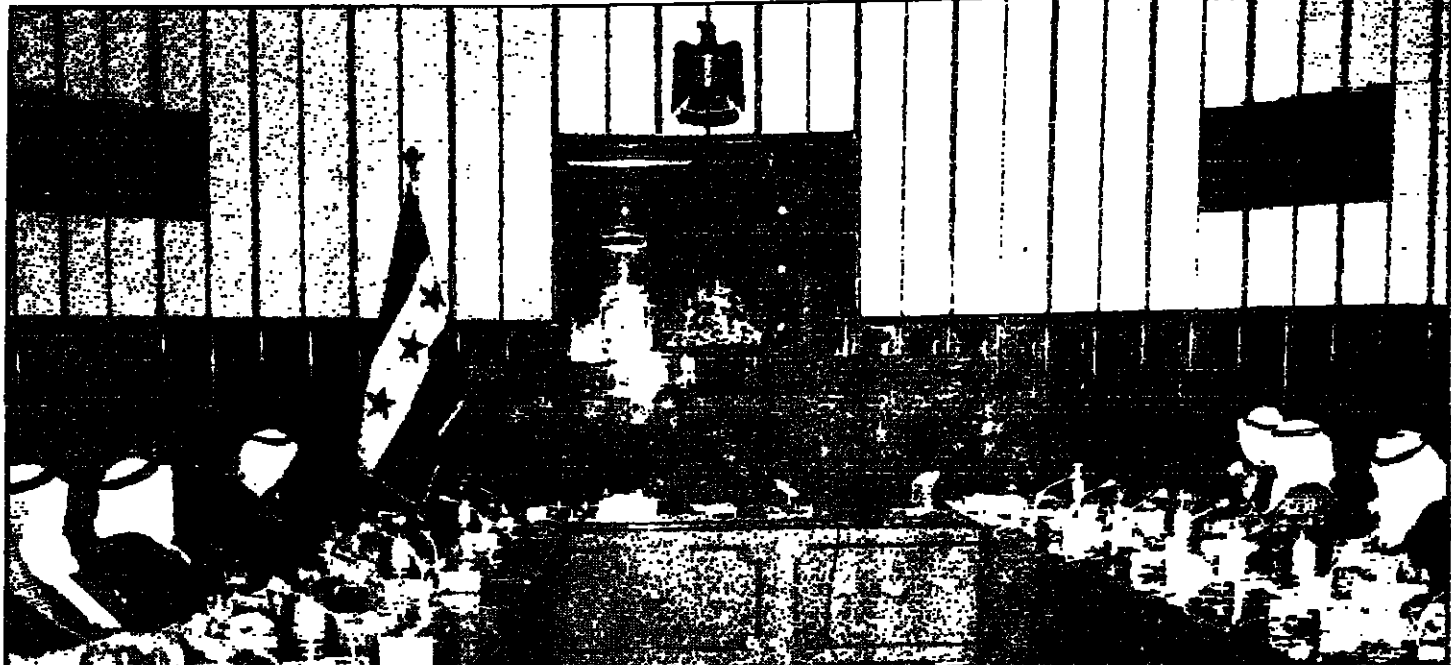
Regarding the Soviet Union's announcement to impose an embargo on arms shipments to Iran, Hussein said he recognises that the Soviets would always be ready to discuss alternatives to the presence of Western fleets in the Gulf and are ready to offer ideas.

Regarding China's role in providing weapons to Iran, Saddam said that all Arab brothers who have influence in this area are attempting to explain the risks one takes in supplying arms to Iran and to show that this policy encourages Iran to continue its attacks on Arabs.

Movement

Iraq supports the mujahideen movement against Iran and it is common knowledge that members of this movement are Persians who operate from within Iraq against the Ayatollah regime.

Saddam said the collaboration with the mujahideen was not only because they share a com-



President Saddam Hussein talking to editors-in-chief of Kuwaiti newspapers.

mon enemy but because they believe in the same facts. "We both believe that Iran is the evil side in the war and we both believe that the atrocities committed by the Ayatollah regime will be difficult to repeat again in Iran in the near future," he said.

On relations with Syria, the Iraqi President said that mediation between Iraq and Syria could have proven useful before the Amman Summit when he met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. "But after we met in the presence of all Arab leaders there can be no way for mediation," he added.

He explained that the failure in having good relations was not in the inability to reach an agreement. An agreement had been reached at the Amman Summit and resolutions were issued as the opinion of all Arabs, he said.

Iraq is trying to build oil and gas pipelines through Saudi Arabia and Turkey to avoid the pressure on its oil exports, Saddam said, because of Iraq's limited coastline and Iranian threats, Iraq did not dare ship oil during the war.

Increased

"We have expanded our oil pipeline through Turkey," he said, "and have increased its potential capacity as well as the lines on Saudi territory."

Speaking on a different subject altogether, Saddam said the Palestinian question was, naturally, of concern to Iraq. He said that the Palestinian people have greatly shaken the confidence of the enemy, Israel now questions whether they are capable of continuing their occupation and maintaining their domination on Palestinians.

Saddam said that Arabs will commit a mistake if they expect or ask for quick results from the current uprising. He added that "if we ask for quick results we

may interfere with the struggle of the Palestinian people." The revolution is highly respected in Iraq, he said, and is seen as a means of making it known that the occupation is wrong and cannot continue.

He went on to say that even the American people now speak differently of Israel and of the Palestinians.

He said that comparisons cannot be made between Iraq's stand against Iran and the Palestinians' stand against Israel. He said: "Now we are fighting the invaders through arms, while our brothers in the occupied lands fight the enemy with stones." Saddam added that throughout history invaders of the Arab world left by only one means — force. He said what is needed now is to be patient and to support this uprising until the Zionist entity allows the legal rights of the Palestinian people.

Fate

Saddam said that aid should be provided to Palestinians as they fight to defend the fate of their people.

He added that although Iraq is involved in its own war it has provided aid to the PLO because this was their duty. He added that just because Iraq was at war it did not mean that they were exempt from helping their brothers. He said: "We found that our

position in Iraq is relatively better than theirs."

Answering a question about the Israeli aircraft that was downed by Iraq, Saddam said that Iraq has always thought that Israel had plans to harm Iraq if given the chance. He added that Israel would hurt any Arab country if the chance presented itself.

He said that Israel took advantage of Iraq's engagement in war with Iran and in July 1981 bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor. He added that the Israeli animosity was nothing new.

Contacts

The Iraqi President said that Iraq had been notified by Egypt and Jordan about contacts with Americans regarding the US desire to have a viewpoint on the Palestinian cause.

When asked about some proposals submitted by Arab officials that call for the Palestinians to stop their uprising, Saddam said that the Egyptians mean to bring this issue to world public attention and that they had confirmed their respect for the Palestinian decision and opinion.

Saddam said that the Palestinians have their legitimate representative which is the PLO and that Arabs should not forget this fact. He added that the Palestinians in the occupied territories carry the flag of resistance and face the Zionists continuously.

The Iraqi President believes socialism is the best solution to all social problems but is aware of the way it is misused. He said that Iraq's primary socialistic principles are based on the development of national resources and the fair distribution of shares among the people to ensure a collective sense of happiness.

Maintain

He said they still maintain that there are certain activities in which the private sector cannot successfully invest capital and which can only be done by the government. "The Iraqis' existing financial potential is much better than they were back in 1986," he said, "and our expertise is constantly developing."

The Iraqi government is focusing its attention on more demanding activities, Saddam said, adding that it was only due to the power of the socialistic system in Iraq that they were able to confront their enemy. He cited the Manakh crisis in Kuwait as an example of an economic symptom in a free system illustrating that theory is one thing and application is another.

Saddam said the real source of power is the people and that if any leader believes the source of his power is in his strong relations with the Soviets, Americans or French, for example, he will soon be defeated.

Postal working hours

KUWAIT'S Post Office Department has announced that the postal sorting section, the General Post Office, Safat Post Office, Muntaz Post and surface mail exchange office will be open from 7.30 am to 1.30 pm on Feb 25, will be closed on Feb 26 and will keep normal timings on Feb 27.

All other post offices will be closed for the three day holiday. The post office at the international airport will be open for 24 hours as usual.

Sheikh Saad to make a speech

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah will make today a nation-wide speech on the occasion of Kuwait's 27th National Day.

Sheikh Saad's office announced that the speech will be broadcast over the radio and television at 9.30 pm.

Higher Housing Council discusses draft project

THE Higher Council for Housing held a meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

State Minister for Housing Affairs, Nasser Abdullah Al Roudhan told Kuna that the council listened at the start of the meeting to a statement by Sheikh Saad on the occasion of the 27th National Day celebrations.

HH expressed appreciation toward the members' efforts to provide housing for all citizens, the minister noted.

He added that the council ratified minutes of the previous session then discussed a draft project on a new housing allocation system tabled by the social committee.

The project was discussed in detail, the minister said, adding that it was drafted to facilitate

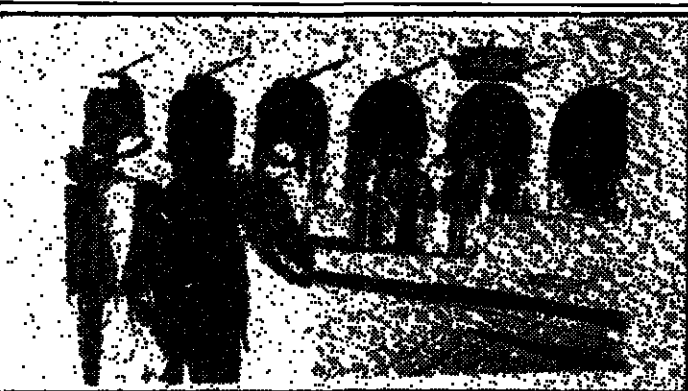
granting of houses to citizens. The members decided to resume discussion on the project in the next session, Roudhan noted.

He announced that the National Housing Authority will print the project, after its endorsement, in pamphlets to be distributed among citizens to spread information on steps and conditions for acquiring government accommodation.

Kuwaiti envoy

BELGRADE, Feb 23, (Kuna): Kuwait's Ambassador in Belgrade Essa Hamad today conferred with the Yugoslav External Trade Minister Nenad Krekic.

Political and economic relations between Kuwait and Yugoslavia, in addition to trade exchange, were discussed at the meeting.



One of the pictures being exhibited.

Pictures of pre-independence Kuwait on display

By Lima Al Khalafawi

A PHOTOGRAPH of the late Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al Salem, inspecting policemen in 1956 is among a collection of about 30 photographs of "Kuwait before independence" on display at the Kuwait Hilton.

The photographs date from the early 1920s to 1961.

The exhibition, which is part of the celebrations of the 27th anniversary of Kuwait's National Day, was opened yesterday by the assistant under-secretary for press, publications and censorship, Hamad Al Roumi.

It will continue until March 1. The photographs include a vintage car used by the late Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al Salem, in 1947, Ahmad town in 1946 with oil barrels and desert, and a rare picture of Shuwaik port in 1958.

There is also a picture of the opening of the American Hospital by the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem in 1955 and a picture of the Seif Palace and the Finance Department in the 1940s.

The pictures are very clear although old.

The photographs were provided by Dr Sulaiman Al Awadi, Boodai Group of Companies, Kuwait Oil Company, Boushara Film Company, and others.

Heritage village exhibition opens

MINISTER of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah yesterday opened the popular heritage village exhibition at Kuwait National Museum which is being hosted as part of Kuwait's 27th National Day celebrations.

Speaking to reporters following the inauguration, Sheikh Jaber said "we should maintain our past because it materialises our present Kuwait identity."

He expressed hope that the people would hold tight to this spirit to serve their country.

The Minister accompanied by ranking officials including Minister of Public Work Abdel Rahman Al Houti toured the six-day exhibition that portrayed designs of the old Kuwaiti village.

The cost of building the village will be borne by Saudi Arabia. It will be six-kilometre long and each member state of the Gulf Cooperation Council will display its own heritage.

Pakistan embassy

THE Pakistan Embassy in Kuwait will be closed from Feb 25 to Feb 27 on the occasion of Kuwait's National Day.

Girls urged to follow principles of Islam

ISLAMABAD, Feb 23, (Kuna): The wife of Kuwait's ambassador in Pakistan, Mrs Badria Qasim Omer Al Yaquout, has called on young girls to follow the basic principles of Islam and act according to the teachings of the Holy Quran.

Speaking as chief guest at the International Thinking Day of the Rawalpindi Girls Guides Association last night she said that if they imbued Islamic principles in the young they would greatly help their country to become a strong Islamic country of the world.

She told the large number of girls guides present at the Thinking Day function that it was a matter of pride that they were already making a significant contribution not only towards the social service sector but also thriving to becoming best girls, sisters, mothers and wives of the Pakistani society.

Trustee
Mrs Badria Al Yaquout, who is closely associated in a number of social welfare oriented women's organisations of the Pakistani capital, has organised earlier this month a cultural programme at the Kuwait embassy premises at which Begum Shafiq Zia-ul-Haq, wife of the Pakistan President, was the chief guest.

Mrs Shafiq Zia in her short speech at the function lauded the efforts of the Kuwaiti envoy's wife for deeply involving herself in the activities related to the uplift of the womenfolk in the federal capital.

She asked Mrs Badria to become one of the trustees of the fund she announced on the occasion to help in financing the marriages of young girls of poor families in the area. Mrs Badria readily agreed. Another trustee nominated by Begum Zia was the wife of Oman's Ambassador Mrs Shireen Al Musallir.

The programme was organised by the hand-in-hand club, the membership of which also includes wives of ambassadors based in Islamabad.

Pakistani minister visits S. Arabia

RIYADH, Feb 23, (Kuna): Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani arrived here today on an official one-day visit, Saudi Press Agency reported.

The agency did not disclose the purpose of the visit. However, it is believed that Noorani will brief Saudi officials on the outcome of his recent visit to China and the Afghan situation.

EEC seeking trade agreement with GCC

By Jadranka Porter

THE EEC is hoping to conclude a trade agreement with the GCC in the course of this year, perhaps before summer, according to Jean Lecanuet, the head of the European parliamentary delegation which left Kuwait yesterday.

The delegation of 10 deputies representing a spectrum of political opinions is touring the Gulf seeking to remove obstacles to the agreement, at present in the draft stage. Lecanuet indicated that both sides have still a lot of ground to cover.

The EEC is seeking assurances from the GCC on maintaining uniform oil prices irrespective of who the buyer is and that no secret rebates should be offered via concealed undertakings. Lecanuet told reporters before departure. Another task awaiting the Europeans is to prepare their petro-chemical industries to face the free trade competition from the GCC states, he added. The GCC states on their part have to align their nascent industries behind their tariff protection, Lecanuet said.

Curbed

The GCC has repeatedly complained that their access to the European markets for its refined oil products was curbed by European customs tariffs.

The differences between the two economic groupings are further compounded by the fact that neither the EEC, nor the GCC has yet reached a unified view



The European parliamentary delegation pictured before their departure from Kuwait (Picture by Javed Basra).

with which to confront the other negotiating party, a Western diplomat told the Arab Times.

"There are still differences in approach among European nations," he said adding that the GCC states have also not resolved the differences among themselves.

Similarities

Lecanuet said that a more precise timetable for reaching the agreement would be drawn after the delegation's visits to Oman and Bahrain. The parliamentarians visited Saudi Arabia before coming to Kuwait.

In Kuwait the delegation met with HH the Amir, the Minister

of State for Foreign Affairs, Saoud Al Osaimi, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed and the Oil Minister, Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Athbi.

Ceasefire

Lecanuet said Kuwait was in favour of the agreement between the two groupings. The parliamentarians, who were for the first time in Kuwait, were able to observe directly how the GCC are organising themselves and have noted similarities between the EEC and the GCC. Lecanuet said, "Kuwait has reached a level of development sufficient to enable it to invest in Europe if it desired to do so", Lecanuet said.

Turning to Iran Iraq war Lecanuet said it is rapidly becoming clear that there is a convergence of views between Kuwait and the EEC on the issue. Both parties are backing the UN ceasefire resolution 598, Lecanuet said adding that further efforts to end the war should take place under the umbrella of the UN initiative. He said the EEC backed efforts to hold a Middle East peace conference to resolve the Palestinian question adding that the EEC recognises the Israel's right to exist but also demands the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories.



● The Commerce and Industry Minister, Faisal Al Khaled, yesterday opened the Kuwait national industries exhibition at the International Fairgrounds in Mishref. The exhibition will continue until Feb 29. He expressed pleasure at the opening of the exhibition on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of Kuwait's National Day and praised the standard of Kuwait industries. Al Khaled is seen looking at an exhibit after opening the exhibition.

EVENTS

VIDEO CORNER

'Unfilmable' story projects intellectual magic

By Shaun Seekins

THE Princess Bride is a new fantasy-adventure that like all fairy stories deserves to live happily ever after. Originally written more than 15 years ago it was rejected by every major studio as unfilmable. That is until Norman Lear agreed to finance it last year. In many ways reminiscent of the very successful Never-Ending Story it has a grandfather (Peter Falk) reading the story to his sceptical grandson (Fred Savage), in it, Buttercup (Robin Wright), a milk-maid, believes her adventurous lover has been murdered by pirates, and agrees to a marriage of convenience with the evil Prince Humperdinck (Chris Sarandon). Before the wedding however she is kidnapped by a giant, a Spanish swordsman and a wily Sicilian as part of a plot to start a war between Humperdinck's country of Florin and its neighbour, Guilder. But Wesley appears, alive and well, to overcome her captors and a myriad assortment of other threats, including a fire swamp, a giant rat, a torture chamber and, finally, Humperdinck himself. Reading all that you would think that it only for children, but you would be

wrong. There is undeniable an adult level — one that counterpoints the fairy tale motif through a blend of comedy and satire and imbues the whole film with an undeniable intellectual magic. Additionally, the actors, particularly Andre the Giant (cast as Fezzik the Giant) project a sensitivity that combines with the beautiful photography of Adrian Biddle to create an imaginary land that the most cynical viewer will wish was real.

Weeds takes us from fairy tales to Real Life with a vengeance, inspired by the life of convict Rick Cluchey, who turned a prison sentence into a ticket to Broadway for forming a behind-the-walls theatrical troupe which caught the attention of rich liberals. It might simply have been another Hollywood prison drama but the considerable acting talents of Nick Nolte lift it out of the ordinary. The power of the film derives not from the playwright's rise from prison-stripes-to-riches, but from the less than glamorous anxieties of prisoner Lee Umstetter (Nick Nolte) and his fellow cons as they try to adapt to life outside. After an unconvincing beginning, in which Umstetter attempts to circumvent his life



The Princess Bride — a streetwise fairy tale

sentenced through repeated suicide attempts, he discovers the pleasures of reading and devours all of the literature in the prison library. Not satisfied with merely reading, he writes a play about prison life and is paroled when his cause is eventually taken up by a female drama critic. As well as dealing with the morality of the prisoner's treatment in American prisons, the film examines the creative process. Nolte deftly portrays the agonisingly slow transformation of a semi-

literate plagiarist into a resourceful writer who can adopt to the demands of each new audience. And in the film's most powerful scene, he incites an audience to riot solely through the power of his performance. In a lighter mood, Double Switch is a good new comedy with some situations which are exploited beautifully. The story is about a rock star who swaps places with a look-alike kid (didn't Tommy Steele do something like this in the 50's with

The Prince and the Pauper) the kid, who really would like to get away from his family, especially his younger sister, and fancies himself as a rock singer although he can't sing a note. Then there's the rock star who is sick of being mobbed by girls, being confined to his hotel room and missing family life and, would you believe it, school. When the kid wins a look-alike competition and the two meet they agree to change places. A bit of a cautionary tale, how the grass isn't always greener and how tough it can be at the top.

Thriller
The Contract is a very good new British spy thriller which tells of confusion over an East German defector which causes British Intelligence to mount a covert operation to bring someone over the heavily guarded frontier between East and West Germany. Basketball fans will be happy that the All Stars game has arrived, also Lakers vs Boston the rugby internationals have arrived at last and there is a new MTV US Top 20 available.

The above films are available at VFI, Safeway, Farwana, Video Nurf, Salmiya, Tel: 2432809; and at Video Club, Salmiya, Tel: 5724372.

Jane goes over the top

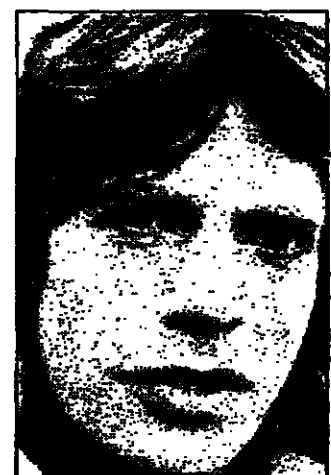
By Gail Seery

FOR those like me, who found films like Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom thoroughly entertaining, but just a little too dramatic to be believable, there is a newish film available which is every bit as exciting and totally 100 per cent over the top.

Jane and the Lost City, which stars Kirsten Hughes and Sam Jones, is a screen version of the wartime "Jane" comic strip. Basically it concerns a "jolly hockey-sticks" type blonde who has lots of adventures. The only similarity between each story is that she always fights against the wicked German SS officer Lola Pagola, on the side of the Colonel, and that inevitably, she loses her wifey-boy of clothes in all eventualities. In many ways the strip was a means of serving up polite but titillating smut of a not-too-laudable nature.

This delicious send-up of the adventure movies is beautifully done, from the splendid over-playing of roles by all the main characters, to the setting and the story.

I couldn't help feeling that the most enjoyable performance of the film was given by British comedian Jasper Carrott, as the wicked and sadistic Heinrich. "Please be nice to Heinrich," Lola Pagola



Mick Jagger appears in The Rutles

counsels aside. "Or else he'll stick a knife in your back," Heinrich is totally incompetent and totally incapable of firing a gun without breaking it. "Lola, it's not fair. I haven't tortured anyone all week!"

For her part, Lola Pagola is a beautiful send-up of all the lovely but dangerous women in films. In one scene she tempts good-guy Jack Buck to dance the tango with her, while all the down and out in the bar with them also dance a ridiculously stylised tango. Meanwhile, of course, Lola is first dragging poor Jack's drink, and then torturing him outside.

The film is shot in Africa, where Jane and the Colonel are sent in search of the Lost City or rather, its legendary diamonds, to help with Britain's war effort. The Nazis, headed by Lola Pagola, are also interested. The rest follows almost inevitably. It is a very silly film indeed.

The Rutles is a somewhat older comedy spoof of the Beatles Story. It was written and starred Eric Idle of the Monty Python team, and like all the Python films was financed by George Harrison. Even while the whole Beatle legend is being firmly sent up, by notables including Mick and Bianca Jagger and Paul Simon, George Harrison can be seen making a couple of cameo appearances. It does bring out some of the mania of what was, at the time, meant to be the wisdom of the Beatles, but is even so very flat, inadequate and unnecessary. It's funny in places and would have comfortably filled a half hour slot, but falls flat as a full length show. Its main drawback is the sheer self-indulgence of those involved. The Lenny Henry Show is very good in parts, particularly the episodes involving the pirate radio station. It's a sort of black Only Fools and Horses. Rooster is a comedy about cock-fighting, if such a thing is possible, and not worth wasting time on.



Jagjit and Chitra Singh, the well known Indian ghazal singers will perform at the Kuwait Hilton on Friday March 6, in a concert which is likely to draw a large crowd of Indian music lovers. Tickets will be on sale at the Hilton.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Dahyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery
A painting exhibition is open from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm at the Dahyat Abdullah Al Salem gallery, until Feb 24.
Sultan Gallery
"Kuwait: Studies in Water-colour" is the theme of an exhibition of paintings by American artist Kathleen Stafford at the Sultan Gallery, 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm (except Friday), until Feb 29. The gallery is located near the Rolls Royce showroom, Al Soor St.

CINEMA

Czech Cinema
Feb 24: Janko: The Pea in the Gym; Cuckoo in the Dark Forest.
The film will be shown at 7.30 pm at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry auditorium. Children not allowed inside the auditorium. The festival has been organised by the Kuwait Cine Club.

THEATRE

Kuwait Players
"Do Not Disturb" an adult comedy written by Michael Pertwee will be performed at 8 pm on Feb 24 and 25 at the Universal American School. For reservations ring 5613465; 5745838; 5618244. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Kuwait Players
After Ants Nest, Antidote — a fast moving revue of comedy sketches and songs, to be presented by Kuwait Players from May 9. Auditions will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Sunday 28th February and Thursday 1st March, 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Any Queries contact Paul, tel. 5611546.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Natural History Group
The next meeting will be held on Feb 25 at 7.30 open at the Gulf English School, Safwa. An illustrated talk on Peru will be given by Ms Kathleen Scanlon.

Photography Contest
All members of Kapilku, the Filipino organisation in Kuwait, are invited to take part in a photography contest on "Portrait of Filipinos in Kuwait". All entries must be (minimum) 20x25 cms or (max-

imum) 50x 40 cms. Prints can be in black and white or colour. Each contestant is allowed to submit a maximum of three entries. All entries must be titled or captioned and mounted on a white illustration board. The last date for submitting entries is March 1. They can be submitted at the Philippine Embassy and all the Filipino restaurants in Kuwait. Winners will receive valuable prizes, including 20 consolation prizes.
Kapilku
Kapilku invites all Filipinos to register now as members of the Filipino Association in Kuwait. Further information available from Jojo Arcangel, tel: 4877793.

Kumustahan '88
The next Filipino get together (Kumustahan) will be held on Friday, Feb 26 at the church hall, 4 pm to 8 pm. All Filipinos are welcome. Admission free and snacks will be served.
Kuwait Welsh Society
Annual St. David's Day dinner at Messilah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. For tickets and further details phone 4874548; 3910875; 3912384.



Jazz Brunch at the Meridien on Thursday

Fightriders
If your child is a British Airways Fightrider member and has not received an invitation to the Fightrider party please contact 2413868 or 2425496
ACT
ACT presents "an evening of absurdity" from March 7 to 10 at 8 pm at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School. The evening consists of two absurdly comic one-act plays, "The Bold Soprano" by Eugene Ionesco and "The

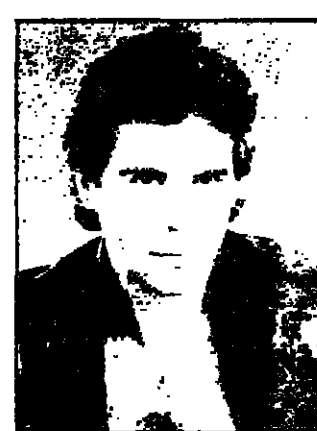
TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World Today via Satellite
- 3.30 Abtal Al Mu'ab-car-toon serial
- 4.00 News summary
- 4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
- 4.20 National varieties
- 5.15 Between yesterday and today local programme
- 6.00 National varieties
- 7.00 News summary
- 7.05 Ma'a Al Talaba by Nooriya Al Farhan.
- 7.45 Local programme
- 8.15 Good Evening programme and local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 10.00 Varieties
- 10.30 Special programme on National Day
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 World News via Satellite

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 The Get Along Gang.



Falcon Crest is on

KTV2 tonight

- cartoons
- 6.30 Micro at Work "Robots in Action." A look at robots used in games and weapons.
- 6.50 The Living Isles: "After the Ice." The emergence of new fauna and flora following the retreat of glaciers in northern Scotland.
- 7.30 Growing Pains: "The

- Breakfast Club: "Mike lies to his parents and is punished. But he catches his mother lying to her boss."
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 J.J. Starbuck
- 9.30 The World of Strange Power: "Walking on Fire."
- 10.00 Perfect Strangers: "Ladies and Gents." Lari has flut but refuses his cousin's suggestions for treatment.
- 10.30 Falcon Crest: "New Faces" Melissa leaves for Australia looking for her son while Angela meets the man she was once involved with who claims that Richard is her son."
- 12.00 News Summary: Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait: Al Mutawa Pharmacy, Al Halasa Street, Al Sharq Pharmacy, Souq Al Jadeed, Safat
- Hawalli and Nagra: Al Akhlaq Pharmacy, Beirut St.
- Salmiya and Rumailhiya: Al Nahdha Pharmacy, Baghdad St.
- Fahadheel and Ahmadi: Al Yamen Pharmacy, Mecca St.
- Khairat: Al Tasamam Pharmacy, New Khairat
- Jahra: Al Noor Pharmacy, Al Mutafec St.

CINEMA

- Al Andalus: The Highest Honour
- Al Salmiya: The Living Daylights
- Al Hamra: Hanna K.
- Drive-In: Arabic film
- Al Firdous: Shahenshah (Hindi) Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Meenakshi Seshadri
- Fahadheel Open-Air: Sindoor
- Al Fahadheel: Arabic Film
- Al Jahra: Country
- Granada: Arabic Film
- Sulabikhat: Jalakam
- Al Jleeb: Arabic Film
- Ahmedi Drive-In: Arabic film
- Starring: Adel Imam, Athar
- Al Hakim

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

MORNING

- 08.00 Opening
- 08.02 Songs and Music
- 08.05 Writers & poets in Arabic literature
- 08.30 Songs and Music
- 08.30 News
- 08.40 Songs and Music
- 08.45 Daily Programme
- 09.00 Golden Collections
- 09.30 Album Tracks
- 10.00 Our Press Today
- 10.05 Song and Music
- 10.30 Music with a Theme
- 11.00 Closedown
- 13.30 News on the FM Service.

EVENING

- 21.00 Opening
- 21.02 Pop Scene
- 21.30 News
- 21.45 Point of View
- 21.55 Songs and Music
- 22.25 Musical Celebrities
- 22.45 Daily Programme
- 23.00 Soul with a beat
- 23.30 Choice of the Week
- 24.00 Closedown

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsweek
- 30 Omnibus
- 0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 30 Report on Religion
- 45 Country Style
- 0200 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Chain Reaction
- 30 Citizens
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 The World Today
- 30 Discovery
- 0400 Newsweek
- 30 Byron Readings (ex 3rd Being Human)
- 40 Book Choice
- 45 Reflections

- 50 Financial News
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary
- 30 Report on Religion
- 45 The World Today
- 0600 Newsweek
- 30 Meridian
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary
- 30 Development '88
- 0800 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 Classical Record Review
- 30 Just A Minute
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 The World Today
- 30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 Stuart Colman's Record Hop
- 1000 News Summary followed by Omnibus
- 30 Back in Square One
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Byron Readings (ex 3rd Being Human)
- 25 A Letter from Wales
- 30 Meridian
- 1200 Radio Newsweek
- 15 Time for a Verse
- 25 The Farming World
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary
- 30 Development '88
- 1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
- 45 Report on Religion
- 1500 Radio Newsweek
- 15 A Hobby - or a Way of Life?
- 30 The Good Human Guide (ex 24th Two Cheers for February)

PRAYERS

- Fajr 5.00 am
- Zuhr 12.01
- Asr 3.17 pm
- Maghreb 5.43
- Isha 7.01

VACANCY

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Kuwait Players' success

By Keith Wells

THE Kuwait Players latest production of the Michael Pertwee comedy "Do Not Disturb" is a thoroughly enjoyable evening's entertainment that is well worth a visit. Ably directed by Mike Johnston and Mike Roberts the play is a comedy of characters and situations that bubbles along merrily and often had the audience in gales of laughter.

The action centers on Jay Spencer, a public relations man superbly portrayed by Colin Crabbe. Jay is one of those middle-aged men who turns to open neck shirts and silver medals signifying that time of life when mortality begins to appear and morality takes its leave. Leaving his shrewish and unfaithful wife, Sonia, exquisitely played by Fran Rees, Jay sets himself up in a nice little bachelor pad and tries to find freedom, the oldest illusion in the world.

Unfortunately for Jay, his life and his wife conspire to keep their hold on him. Things are complicated by the presence of his next door neighbour, a scatter-brained nymphet, Darlene, deliciously played by Sharon Rimmer who has a nice range of comic expressions to suit all of the unfortunate coincidences that do soon ensue.

Then there's Jay's first wife, a rabid, born again Christian, Rose, who is a recently reformed alcoholic sentimentally determined to help Jay find Jesus. Jenny Elven plays Rose very nicely, but perhaps a little too slowly. It's a minor quibble, but I felt that the production could have had even more sparkle if she could speed up just a little.

To complete the cast, Hilary Jones gives a good perfor-



L-R: Fran Rees, Sharon Rimmer, Colin Crabbe, Jenny Elven and Hilary Jones in a scene from Kuwait Players' production of "Do Not Disturb" at the Universal American School.

mance as Jay's ultra-efficient secretary, Mary, whose dogged devotion to her boss has gone right over the top after being consummated in a lunch time romp on the office carpet. I won't give the plot away, but suffice it to say that although Jay says that all he wants is to be left in peace, the various women in his life have other ideas. Outnumbered four to one, poor Jay doesn't stand much of a chance. Colin Crabbe has over fifty per cent of the lines and is on stage from start to finish in a bravura performance that holds the whole play together. Sonia is a real bitch and Fran plays her with malicious relish that got lots of laughs from an audience who obviously enjoyed every minute.

One unscheduled piece of drama occurred on the first night when an overhead microphone kept slipping from its moorings. The audience couldn't take their eyes off it and when it finally broke free and swung down, narrowly missing the members of the cast there

was a howl of laughter. However, the cast carried on with superb aplomb and won the audience back in no time, a real credit to their professionalism and talent.

At the end of the play there are a couple of unexpectedly serious twists that throw everything that has happened into harsh relief and we begin to see Jay as rather more self-centred and unpleasant than he would wish. It's a tricky passage to act, but the cast managed it superbly and it gave a satisfying depth to the whole play that lifted it above the level of farce without ever sacrificing its hilarity.

The stage set was particularly good, especially as it had to be built elsewhere and assembled on the stage at the Universal American School over the weekend. Full marks to stage manager Mike Neale and his crew for a great job.

The show runs for two more nights, today and tomorrow, and is well worth to visit. For tickets, if there are any left, call 5613465, 5745838 or 5618244.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NOTHING in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood — Marie Curie, Polish-born scientist (1867-1934).

Shultz' Moscow visit revives confidence

By Patrick Worsnip

MOSCOW, (Reuters): Without achieving spectacular results, a visit to Moscow by US Secretary of State George Shultz has revived a mood of confidence between the superpowers that could bring rewards in arms control and on Afghanistan.

Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze emerged from their talks in equable mood and spoke of their discussions without the polemics that have followed some previous US-Soviet encounters.

The last big superpower meeting, the December summit in Washington, was marked by bonhomie and fine rhetoric as US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed a treaty to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles.

But that mood dissipated as the Geneva arms talks bogged down on efforts to achieve a Strategic Arms (Start) Pact, and each side accused the other of going back on understandings reached on Washington.

Now, after Shultz's visit, both powers are again saying they may be able to achieve a Start Treaty, roughly halving their strategic nuclear arsenals, in time for a new Reagan-Gorbachev summit scheduled for May or June in Moscow.

Agreed
"It's more probable than I thought it would be before I came here," one senior US official commented after the talks.

US officials said the two sides had agreed on a new approach of tackling first the highly technical and time-consuming, but relatively uncontentious, issue of verification — measures to prevent cheating — and leaving thorny political problems till later.

The Geneva negotiators have been instructed to draw up three documents: on inspection procedures, on ways of destroying or converting strategic weapons, and data on the weapons stockpiles themselves.

These are to be ready by the time Shultz and Shevardnadze meet again in Washington in a month's time.

But as for whether a strategic arms pact should be tied to an agreement curbing the US "Star Wars" Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), a Moscow demand that has long overshadowed the talks, this will be shelved for the time being.

"SDI will be the end game in

this treaty negotiation," a US official said.

Meanwhile, Moscow and Washington have agreed to go back to the wording of their Washington communiqué, in a barely grammatical passage referring to the 1972 US-Soviet Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty.

That communiqué called for an agreement "to observe the ABM Treaty, as signed in 1972, while conducting their research, development and testing as required, which are permitted by the ABM Treaty, and not to withdraw from the ABM Treaty, for a specified period of time."

There is at present no agreement on what the ABM Treaty permits in terms of SDI anti-missile devices, a problem the superpowers will have to tackle sooner or later.

American officials were jubilant that the Russians appeared to share their interest in making an early start on verification.

On Afghanistan, the US team failed in an effort to extract from the Russians details of how they envisaged the military pullout they have proposed to start on May 15.

Accept
But the Americans appeared to accept the Soviet argument that it was best for such details to emerge from the Afghan-Pakistani talks resuming in Geneva on March 2, to avoid the impression that the superpowers were dictating events.

The US party, from Shultz downwards, also accepted once and for all that Moscow was determined to withdraw its estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan and was not looking for an excuse to stay there.

"We all left with the conviction that they're absolutely serious," one American official said.

The Soviet Union gave a mixed reaction to Shultz's forthcoming tour of the Middle East to promote a new US peace initiative, an event that a few years ago it might have been expected to denounce on principle.

In a sign of the increasing nuancing of Soviet political statements, Shevardnadze said Moscow welcomed the trip itself even though it was doubtful about the US plan, a position not far removed from the utterances of some West European officials.

The official Tass News Agency said the two sides agreed to consult further after Shultz's Middle East visit.

Failure of the Ship of Return to make the voyage

PLO is bloodied but unbowed

By John Fullerton

NICOSIA, (Reuters): The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is bloodied but unbowed by its failure to send deportees back to Israel on board the "Ship of Return," symbol of the Palestinian yearning for a return from exile.

For deported Palestinians themselves, as one put it, the affair was "a beautiful dream devastated by Israel."

Emotions aside, the voyage aimed to coincide with the first major uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, which in turn had prompted fresh diplomatic activity aimed at solving the Palestinian problem.

The intended Ship of Return, the 6,151-ton car ferry Sol Phryne, lies deserted in a Cyprus harbour, after it was crippled by an underwater blast a week ago, forcing the PLO to postpone the trip indefinitely.

Israel would not confirm or deny if the explosion was part of what the PLO called a secret war

against the voyage. But few people doubt that it was the work of Israelis.

PLO officials in Athens pledged last week that the journey would go ahead, even if it took years to arrange. Rumours abound of renewed efforts to set the trip in motion.

Failure

Some analysts said the failure to carry out the mission had dented the personal prestige of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, who was closely associated with the scheme.

Others said the episode might have won significant advantages for the PLO in its propaganda war with Israel.

But it also underlined the impotence of Palestinian leaders in exile and their inability to score political points against Israel, in stark contrast to the teenage youths hurling stones at troops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

More than 60 Palestinians have been killed in 10 weeks of violent disturbances which have

shaken Israel's 21-year grip on the territories.

Some analysts thought the postponed voyage gave fresh impetus to hardliners seeking a return to military confrontation with Israel and marked a setback for Palestinians who favour words over guns.

Operation

In Damascus, an official of the Palestine National Salvation Front, a radical coalition, told Reuters: "A daring operation against Israel like the hang-glider attack will be more effective than 50 ships."

Last Nov 25, a lone Palestinian guerrilla used a hang-glider to drop from the sky into northern Israel and kill six Israeli soldiers before he was shot dead. The pro-Syrian Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) claimed responsibility.

The spectacular suicide assault galvanised Palestinian opinion as a challenge thrown down by "hawks" to "doves" within the Palestinian

movement.

For many, the hang-glider attack unravelled the myth of Israel's military invincibility and spurred young Palestinians to launch protests in occupied Gaza.

Diplomats in the Syrian capital said they expected more Palestinian military actions to follow from the indefinite postponement of the Ship of Return.

Palestinians are wrestling with the choice of reverting to armed struggle or pursuing a diplomatic and media campaign stressing the 40-year-old Palestinian quest for a homeland.

The PLO hinted at possible retaliation against Israeli interests abroad for the blast on the Sol Phryne and the killing of three PLO officials in Cyprus on Feb 14, the day before it was due to have started its voyage.

Adhered

"While we have adhered to the Cairo declaration to halt military operations against enemy targets outside the borders of our country, that was conditional on them

being halted from both sides," said a PLO statement issued in Nicosia last week.

But some Palestinians urge restraint lest the PLO be branded once again by its foes as a terrorist outfit.

They say that, inside the occupied territories, clandestine committees are co-ordinating protests across the ideological barriers which previously split the Palestinian movement into innumerable factions, each striving for pre-eminence.

They say youthful leaders there had undoubtedly snatched the initiative from the leadership-in-exile, but Arafat remained a unifying symbol of resistance to Israeli occupation.

Salah Khalaf, head of PLO counter-intelligence, reiterated in Tunis two days ago that it would confine its attacks to Israel and that no arms would be used in the protests sweeping the occupied territories.

The idea of returning deportees to Israel is not new. It was championed by moderates such

as Said Hammam, who was murdered in London 10 years ago.

Abdul-Jawad Al Saleh, member of the PLO's Central Council and the Palestinian National Council (parliament-in-exile), said he put the notion forward in 1976, two years after he himself was deported from Arab land occupied by Israeli forces in 1967.

"The majority of deportees cried from sadness ... but our strong belief is there ... we shall achieve victory over the enemies of peace and freedom and we shall prove our right to return even aboard a small boat," he said in Amman.

Al Saleh, together with other prominent Palestinians, felt the failure of the trip affected the credibility of the PLO both inside the occupied territories and further afield.

It was partly a problem of organisation.

"It was a brilliant idea," said Lord Christopher Mayhew, a former Labour minister and one of the British observers who waited a week in Athens for the PLO to find a suitable ship.

"But I did wonder whether the PLO had the administrative ability to carry it out"

Police ambushes in Northern Ireland

Britain's reputation for justice tarnished

By Marcus Ellason

LONDON, (AP): By ordinary Northern Ireland standards, the six Roman Catholics killed by police near the end of 1982 might not stand out among the 2,620 other people who have died in a conflict that has raged for nearly 20 years.

But the six men were unarmed, and the murky circumstances of the police ambushes in which they died have left an ugly mystery that has arisen anew to test Britain's reputation for justice and fair play.

Critics allege that the shootings, in three separate incidents over a three-week period, were deliberate, that the policemen who did it escaped punishment, and that a senior police officer sent in to investigate was hounded out of uniform because he got too close to the truth.

Resurface
The controversy resurfaced on Jan 25 when the British government, while denying that police mounted a "shoot-to-kill" policy in Northern Ireland, admitted in a statement that there had been a conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

This admission, coupled with a refusal on national security grounds to prosecute the killers, has provoked outcry in Britain and Ireland, and plunged relations between the two governments to their lowest ebb in nearly six years.

Now, the investigating officer, John Stalker, has published his book, "Stalker," a sordid portrayal of Northern Ireland as

Britain's unruly backyard, where the normal rules of policing and justice are routinely flouted.

Critics say it reaffirms the view that British rule in Northern Ireland is unjust toward the Catholic minority. And there are worries that the affair will set back recent progress toward reconciliation, most notably the 1985 Anglo-Irish agreement giving Dublin a say in governing the province.

On Nov 11, 1982, three guerrilla suspects were shot dead by police as they drove through county Armagh. A month later, two more died in similar circumstances in the same area, notorious as a hotbed of guerrilla activity.

Shot

In between, a teen-ager with no guerrilla connections was shot dead in a county Armagh hushy that served as a guerrilla explosives hideouts, having apparently stumbled innocently into police ambush.

At first the police said all the deaths occurred in the normal course of anti-terrorist warfare. But subsequent evidence suggested the killings were deliberate and avoidable.

Sir John Hermon, chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, ordered an inquiry, and in May 1984, Stalker, the deputy chief constable of the Manchester Police, arrived from the mainland with a six-man investigation team.

In his book, Stalker says he was put on his guard from the outset when Hermon told him: "Remember, Mr Stalker, you are in a jungle now."



The killing of unarmed men has left an ugly mystery

Stalker says he faced constant obstruction from a police force that resented him as an intruder, and from Hermon, who, Stalker believes, was determined to protect his beleaguered force at any cost.

Nonetheless, after two years of investigation he felt he had uncovered enough to suspect the killings were "the act of a Central American assassination squad — truly of a police force out of control."

Stalker writes that he had evidence that at least 11 officers were involved in a conspiracy to pervert justice and commit perjury.

"He believed he could make a case for murder charges too, but one key bit of evidence eluded him: a clandestine tape-recording of the hushed shooting, which he says would have shown conclusively whether or not teenager Michael Tighe was killed in cold blood."

Dumped

Then, he says, "the investigation came to an end for me like a car hitting a brick wall." In May 1986 he was abruptly dumped from the inquiry and suspended for "disciplinary offences."

The offences turned out to be extraordinarily trivial. They con-

cerned his use of police vehicles and his past acquaintanceship with people who had minor police records. A panel that sat in judgement threw out the charges and immediately reinstated him.

But he was not restored to the Northern Ireland inquiry, and he says he was never told why he was dumped from it. He does not believe the government's insistence that his suspension had nothing to do with Northern Ireland.

When he returned to work in Manchester, he writes, he found his chief had turned against him, he was left out of crucial decisions and harassed in petty

ways. He says he never got a word of sympathy or apology from his superiors for the ordeal he and his family had endured.

On March 13, 1987, just before his 48th birthday, Stalker quit the force and began writing his book. Partially serialised in a mass-circulation London newspaper, it has become an immediate best-seller.

Stalker's critics say he was naive to think he could march into the middle of a terrorist war and apply his English standards. Stalker responds: "I'm a pragmatic, hard-nosed copper but I draw the line at murder."

The RUC has issued a statement reiterating that no "shoot-to-kill" policy ever existed, and saying it had no hand in Stalker's suspension.

High-level

The statement denied that Stalker's investigation was obstructed, and said "there are many other matters" in his book and statements "which the police do not accept as being accurate." It did not elaborate.

Stalker says he believes a high-level government decision was taken to oust him, and he says he can understand why. He says he recognises that had his recommendations been taken up, they would have devastated the police force at a delicate juncture in Northern Ireland politics.

Stalker believes that there was no "formal, officially endorsed shoot-to-kill policy," but that the RUC, under constant attack by guerrillas, was pervaded by "a feeling of 'let's do it to them before they do it to us'."

He also agrees with the decision not to prosecute, saying too much time passed for a fair trial to be held.

Palme murder case

Ten theories, and no progress

By Lars Foyen

STOCKHOLM, (Reuters): The two-year hunt for the killer of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme has faded into a routine case based on two bullets, 10 theories and unflagging faith.

"The investigation is now basically a nine-to-five job," said Ulf Karlsson, the national police board administrator in charge of the case.

It is run like any other murder inquiry, he told Reuters at the headquarters of the Stockholm and National Police Forces.

Karlsson, an affable man in a grey business suit, supervises a 35-detective task force, down from a peak of 300 officers in the months following Palme's murder.

"The solution is not waiting around the corner, but there is still reason to feel a certain optimism," said Karlsson, whose policy is to divulge no details of the investigation.

"We are working with a huge amount of material and as much manpower and other resources as we can use. One day I think there will be a solution."

Karlsson's low-key style contrasts starkly with that of the assertive and controversial man he replaced a year ago, former Stockholm police chief Hans Holmer.

Suspensions

Holmer, named Swede of the Year in 1986 by Swedish television, concentrated police resources on suspicions — not shared by prosecutors — about a group of Kurdish left-wing immigrants.

He rounded up a group of Kurdish suspects in January last year, but prosecutors released them later the same day.

In the ensuing public and political bickering the investigation collapsed into chaos, promoting the government to break a tradition of non-interference in legal matters. Holmer

was sacked.

"I think it is important not to get tied down with any single theory," said Karlsson.

His detectives have returned to the scene of the crime, re-opened discarded leads and re-requested dozens of people who were nearby when Palme was shot.

Bullets

But despite some 20,000 tips and around 50,000 documents in the case database, the only tangible evidence is two .357 calibre Magnum bullets found by bystanders after the shooting.

The investigation, Karlsson said, now revolves around checking fresh tips from the public and the pursuit of what he calls "10 fairly interesting lines of inquiry."

On Feb 28, 1986, Palme, having dismissed his bodyguards earlier in the evening, was walking home from the cinema with his wife Lisbet, when a man, probably about six feet (1.83 metres) tall and aged 30-40, approached them from behind.

The assassin fired twice at point-blank range — the first bullet killing the premier, the second grazing his wife's back — before fleeing up a darkened side street.

There the trail ends. A government-named panel of jurists last May, accused police of elementary blunders in the hours after the murder, saying they failed to cordon off a sufficiently large area of Sveavägen and to set up road blocks or airport controls.

"Emergency procedures were not perfect," Karlsson concedes. Was the killer, as some criminologists speculate, a lone anti-Palme fanatic who happened to see the premier enter the cinema, went home to get a gun, and returned to wait outside?

Or was he part of a well-planned Swedish or international conspiracy? Karlsson prefers to keep an open mind.

We really haven't excluded anything.

The victim and his involvement in international politics leaves us with any number of possible motives," he said.

Palme, 59, a four-term Social Democrat premier and an outspoken champion of Third World causes, was loved by his followers but made many enemies among rightists in Sweden and abroad.

A parliamentary commission has looked into and dismissed allegations by journalists that police are covering up involvement of rightist renegades on the force.

Newspapers have speculated that private international anti-communist organisations or foreign intelligence agencies were behind Palme's murder.

Vassiliou becomes president of Cyprus

From obscurity to the highest office

NICOSIA, (Reuters): Millionaire Cypriot George Vassiliou, catapulted from political obscurity to the nation's highest office on Sunday, has promised to bring fresh ideas to the 14-year-old statelet over the divided island.

The urbane entrepreneur, who made his fortune by building a one-man market research firm into a multinational operation, was elected president in a close-fought contest with a combination of leftist and centre-right support.

"I bring fresh thinking," Vassiliou, 56, said in an interview just before his narrow victory over veteran right-winger Glafkos Clerides.

During his campaign he

promised a broad-based government and an advisory national council to tackle the island's dominating problem, reunification with the breakaway northern republic led by Turkish-Cypriot Rauf Denktaş.

"Negotiations up to now on the Cyprus problem are like spending money on lawyers for years to buy property without having discussed the price," he said.

"How can you agree on a constitution if you don't solve the problem of basic liberties?"

Divided

Cyprus has been divided since 1974, when Turkish troops occupied the northern third of the island after a short-lived coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Ankara believed the coup threatened the island's Turkish-Cypriot minority and since 1983 has supported the breakaway republic, guarded by a 29,000-strong Turkish garrison.

Vassiliou's campaign was boosted in July 1987 when he received the backing of the Akele Communist Party. He also won the support of former foreign minister and self-made millionaire Nicos Rolandis, who heads the small centre-right Liberal Party.

Beat

Vassiliou, stressing his independence, has distanced himself from Akele on two foreign policy issues: He favours a newly signed customs union with the European Economic Community and has taken a moderate stand on Britain's two sovereign military bases which Akele wants removed.

Western diplomats do not foresee any change in the country's policy of non-alignment after the election of Vassiliou, who takes office on March 1.

In the first round of voting a week ago, Vassiliou ran second to Clerides and beat third-placed

incumbent Spyros Kyprianou by a margin of about three per cent. In the run-up to the final poll Vassiliou also received a pledge of support from the socialist Edele Party which trailed in fourth place with just under 10 per cent of the vote.

Kyprianou himself was re-elected to a second term in 1983 with Akele support, but later scrapped his electoral pact with the communists.

Akele, which has consistently polled about a third of the votes, has never itself made a bid for the presidency, preferring to back a centrist candidate.

Vassiliou favours building links with Turkish Cypriots, but he also wants a strong campaign to focus greater international attention on the Greek Cypriots' side of the story.

"There has never been any real explanation of where we (Greek Cypriots) stand, of what is going on. We've let Turkey and Denktaş rule the game," he said.

Vassiliou also wants to inject more vigour into economic policy.

Investment

"We need a very active government policy to make Cyprus a regional offshore and financial centre and to attract selective foreign investment," he said.

He has kept clear of party politics, although his father, a prominent eye surgeon, and his dentist mother were founding members of Akele.

George Vassiliou was born in Famagusta on May 21, 1931. His parents went to Hungary after World War II intending to offer medical assistance to communists rebelling in Greece. His father went on to Greece, but his mother stayed in Hungary.

"I was stranded in Geneva studying medicine," Vassiliou said. He joined his mother in Hungary, switched to economics and later studied marketing in England.

Ghana's tribal chief reigns supreme

By Brian Killen

ACCRA, (Reuters): Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, who seized power in a December 1981 coup, is Ghana's undisputed king of the castle. But another — a real king of kings — is just as powerful.

The Asantehene, Otumfuo Opoku Ware II, rules from a palace about 320 km (200 miles) north of Christianborg castle, the coastal seat of Rawlings' ruling Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC).

This powerful leader of the Ashanti people is head of a network of tribal chiefs in this West African country who are likely to remain the supreme decision-makers in local affairs even after district assemblies are elected later this year.

PNDC Secretary for Chieftaincy Affairs, E.G. Tanoh, himself a tribal chief, told Reuters 95 per cent of local government was likely to remain in the hands of the chiefs.

"The influence of the chiefs will still be supreme, especially in villages and rural areas," he said. Ghana has about 200 paramount chiefs and about 2,000 divisional chiefs who are revered for their wisdom.

They rule in a quasi-feudal manner on a wide range of issues in tribunals and have the right to advise central government.

Respect

Rawlings, while saying they should be progressive and keep in step with the revolutionary march, has been careful to show them due respect.

"Whenever they express their views the government takes them seriously," said Tanoh, whose formal chief's title is Nana (Highness) Kwasi Obodiam XI.

"The kingmakers can reject you and there are many disputes, but the office is elected. Sometimes the elections lead to violence," he added.

It is not yet clear how the chiefs will coexist with the planned district assemblies, which will be the arm of central government overseeing local affairs such as the development of districts.

The government says the assemblies are the first stage of a PNDC democratisation plan for the military-led nation, but gives no details.

Electoral guidelines state that one third of the assembly seats will be preserved for "traditional authorities."

Tanoh understands this to mean reserved for tribal chiefs.

But one of the leaders of the grassroots Committees for the Defence of the Revolution, Lieutenant-Colonel J.Y. Assasi, said this was by no means certain.

"It is still debatable as to whether some seats should be reserved for chiefs," he added.

Assasi said Rawlings was laying the foundations of a new democratic system, where the power will be in the hands of the people and the chiefs will remain "the depository of all that makes life meaningful."

"I do not think the majority of people want to have this institution changed," he said.

The Asantehene's palace in the Ashanti city of Kumasi, guarded by the king's private Army, is full of mystical significance and the man himself has an aura of greatness.

When he emerges into his gardens, filled with palm trees and peacocks, and leaves the palace to attend functions he is followed by a retinue of drum-beating, supporters and guards.

KUWAIT '88

AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT ON NATIONAL DAY

Changing values

As Kuwait enters its twenty-seventh year of independence, the physical growth of the state has been accompanied by a tremendous population explosion among the Kuwaitis themselves. The high proportion of young Kuwaitis indicates that the biggest change in the history of Kuwaiti society is about to happen. These children represent an unknown quantity; their attitudes, opinions and ambitions will shape the future of the country. How are they different from their forefathers? How do they see the future?

Keith Wells examines some of the changing values of Kuwaiti society.

OVER the past decade Kuwait City has mushroomed in size, spreading further and further out into the surrounding desert. When the first Master Plan for Kuwait was drawn up in the early Fifties the ring roads were an imaginative leap into empty desert.

Even eleven years ago, when I first arrived, there were very few buildings beyond the Fourth Ring Road and the Fifth Ring Road was no more than a dotted line on a map.

This explosive physical growth has been accompanied by a tremendous population explosion among the Kuwaitis themselves. The high proportion of young Kuwaitis (about half of them are under the age of fifteen) indicates the biggest change in the history of Kuwaiti society is about to happen. These kids represent an unknown quantity, their attitudes, opinions, ambitions and aims will shape the future of the country. How are they different from their fathers and grandfathers? How do they see the future?

Recognition

Perhaps the first thing to recognise is that this younger generation have little or no knowledge of Kuwait's past. They might have read about the old days in books, but they have no direct personal experience. When I first arrived in Kuwait in 1977 I taught students in their late teens and early twenties who could still remember living in houses without air-conditioning. They remembered the first time they saw television or had the telephone connected. To such people, these modern benefits were still something to be prized. Today's younger generation take all those things for granted. They grew up in the first flush of oil wealth and the prosperity that it engendered and they have far higher expectations than their forefathers. Older Kuwaitis used to tell stories about how, in the days before oil, they would go to the gold souk to buy a present for their wives and the gold merchant would say, 'Take it home to see if she likes it, you can pay me later. That kind of small town trust vanished many years ago when the Kuwaiti population became too big for everyone to know everyone else.

Nowadays, when two Kuwaitis meet for the first time they still go through the old ritual of enquiring about each other's families but all too often these responses peter out into mutual confusion. Large families are still the norm, and these have given rise to such complexities that it is no longer so easy to identify someone simply by his father and grandfather's names. This shift from the cosy familiarity of a tribal society to the anonymity of a modern state is still taking place. The wasta system can be seen as a series of connections and links between a people who are gradually becoming strangers to each other.

Adequate

However, the wasta system is no longer adequate to the task and as the bulk of the younger generation pass into adulthood, influence and connections will no longer be sufficient to guarantee employment. Competition is increasing all the time, students at local colleges and the university are beginning to respond to the fact that the old days are disappearing, and the onus is now on them to compete for jobs and opportunities.

This change in attitude has both beneficial and detrimental aspects. When I first arrived in Kuwait people were always boasting that Kuwait had no vandalism, that that kind of decadent wicked Western

behaviour would never happen in such a unified, Islamic country. I can remember arguing that such anti-social behaviour had nothing to do with nationality or religion, but everything to do with physical environment. If you build a modern city, you get modern city problems, like vandalism, whether you live in Moscow or New Jersey, Paris or Rio de Janeiro. Sadly, such behaviour is now common in Kuwait. On a recent KTV programme, Touristic Enterprises showed the extent of the damage caused by vandalism in their facilities: over 11,000 chairs and 5,000 tables were damaged in a single year. Ten years ago this would have been unthinkable, now it is commonplace, a grimly ironic welcome to the modern world.

However, it would be a mistake to think that the changes here are all for the worse. On the contrary, many things have improved beyond all recognition. Shopping, for instance, has become easier and easier as the local market and its clientele have become more and more sophisticated. A decade ago it was rare to find things like biscuits or breakfast cereals in the co-ops, nowadays, stores like the Sultan Centre or Safeways have as wide a range as anywhere in the world.

Foodstuffs, clothing, household goods, electronic equipment, all can be found here in greater variety than ever before. In the wake of the Manakh crisis and the drop in oil prices, competition in the local market has become fiercer than ever, and it is the consumer who has benefited as prices have fallen. Leaving the country it is often hard to find such a range of goods outside and prices here are competitive with those anywhere else in the world.

Difficulty

The tremendous surge of urbanisation over the past decades has turned Kuwait from a small town into a major city. Giant government housing projects, like Ain Baghze, Sabah Al Salem and the new area called Al Qurain have brought a whole new way of life to their inhabitants. One point which is often overlooked is that these townships are spreading further and further away from the old town centre. Currently there is a ten year waiting list for government housing, and those who put their names down now are sure to be living a long way out by the time their houses are ready at the end of the century. To the outsider, it seems obvious that sheer lack of space will force citizens to accept vertical housing policies sooner or later, but the bedouin and their descendants are sure to resist it as long as they can. The National Housing Authority apartments at Al Suwaber in the heart of the city have been rejected by most Kuwaiti families and many of them are still empty. It is a classic case of an idea being put into effect before the society was ready to accept it. When the choice becomes an apartment in the town centre or a house way beyond Jahrah, then the Kuwaitis will begin to understand the old real estate agents dictum that the three most important things about a dwelling are position, position and position.

Such problems are part of the basic difficulty, that the increased population inevitably means that the country's resources must perforce be spread ever thinner. One visible effect of this has been the recent craze for costume jewellery. A decade ago, every Kuwaiti lady wore real gold, all the time, often in very large amounts. Over the past two or three years there has been a fashion for costume jewellery, and one

could almost hear the sighs of relief among the gold-buying males. A small example, and one which may well be just a temporary fashion that will swing back towards the real thing, but it shows a growing sense of economic realism.

In the late Seventies when the oil boom was at its height, Kuwait's economy roared along at a terrific rate. The Manakh crisis coupled with the Iran-Iraq war and the collapse in the oil price all served to put an abrupt end to an era of unrivalled prosperity. Kuwait is far from poverty, but at least it has begun to recognise that there is some connection between effort and reward. Many local companies have used this period of austerity to revamp their organisation, improve profitability and cut down on unnecessary expenses and as a result, have emerged even stronger than before.

As fashions have changed so have expectations, although not quite so quickly. The days when every young Kuwaiti expected to inherit a desk big enough to land helicopters are slowly fading as the youngsters gradually begin to realise that life is a bit more serious than that. However, the longing lingers and it will be many years before young Kuwaitis see themselves as artisans or manual workers.

One example of their attitudes has been revealed by the debate over foreign maids. There are plenty of outraged voices accusing the maids of teaching foreign ways and customs, but very few clear-sighted enough to point out that the simple way to avoid such influence is to do the necessary housework and child-rearing

oneself. Such narrow-mindedness is an ugly manifestation of intolerance among those who have been given so much. It bespeaks a people who are coming to believe their own publicity, always a dangerous sign of a society losing touch with reality. On the other hand there are plenty of eager, highly educated Kuwaitis returning from their studies abroad with a wealth of new ideas and energies, determined to make the necessary changes to their society. Today's young Kuwaitis include those who were brought up in strict, old fashioned ways, as well as those who attended foreign schools, maybe have a foreign mother and received their higher education abroad. How these two different groups inter-act is the key to the future of Kuwait. Kuwaitisation has been a



The next generation: Kuwait's future lies in their hands



In the days before oil, the camel was a popular mode of travel...



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twenty-seventh year of independence, it is possible to see how much has been achieved in such a very short span of time. Growth and change always bring pressures and strains to a society and it is a measure of the country's unity that it has held together as well as it has. Undoubtedly, Islam has acted as a kind of centrifugal force for the society as a whole, binding it together as it makes the uneasy transition from tribal to national identity.

A couple of years ago any article about change in Kuwait would inevitably have concentrated on the tremendous physical changes that were taking place, new housing estates, expressways, hospitals, ministries and so on would have figured prominently in the story. Now that most of this infrastructure has been built the story itself has changed to the way in which such physical progress has affected the population's own attitudes and lifestyles. A decade ago most Kuwaiti girl students would tell you they wanted to marry and

have as many children as possible. Judging by the figures, they seem to have done just that. But today's generation of girls are more likely to say that they want two or three children at the most and, if possible, they also want to have a career, an ambition that is likely to be supported by their putative husbands.

The physical changes of the past decade will be overshadowed by the mental and attitudinal changes of the coming decade. It's an inevitable process, the stage set has been built, now the play itself will unfold against a backdrop that is lightyears away from the simple structures of traditional Kuwaiti society. Belatedly, people have begun to treasure the old buildings and some of them are being restored and preserved. Beit Al Badr near the National Museum is being turned into a kind of Arts and Handicrafts Centre. The question is whether preserving a few old buildings will help to preserve the values which they once housed?

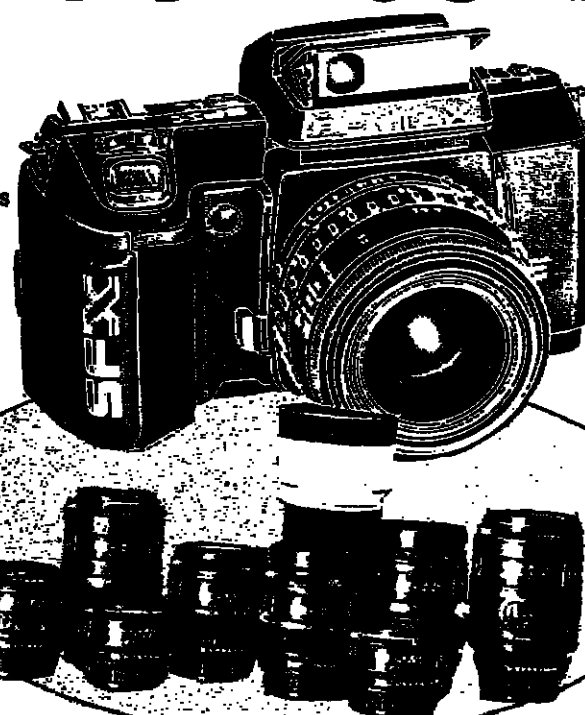
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By Lima Al Khalafawi

PROVIDING 30,000 meals a day during the Islamic Summit held in Kuwait last year required intensive preparations by the Kuwait Aviation Services Company (Kasco).

It was a major challenge and an interesting experience that proved the ability of the staff working in the flight kitchen, the consultant for catering projects, Stuart Sanderson, told the Arab Times.

Team work plus a well organised developed system enabled them to provide the 30,000 meals required daily during the Islamic Summit Conference. Sanderson said that the kitchen normally supplied 10,000 to 15,000 meals a day, and solutions to various problems had to be found in undertaking this gigantic task. He said the 147 Kasco staff were reinforced by 60 persons hired from other countries.

The kitchen was provided with direct lines to the Conference Palace to ensure smooth running of the whole operation and this helped Kasco to cater to the frequent changes in orders. Kasco was able to overcome the problem of providing hot and cold meals to many different locations.

Sanderson said the equipment used had to be disposable in order to avoid complications. So Kasco collaborated with one of the world's largest suppliers of disposable airlines equipment specially for transportation purposes and used the front loading box for cold and hot meals to be assembled and kept ready. The box was designed to keep the meals ready at the distribution points, and very quickly brought, gathered and handed to the staff.

The flight kitchen worked 24 hours a day with the different sections supplying food for 26 airlines, the executive chef/production, Petros Deligiannis, said.

Headed that he and his sous chefs were responsible for the meal schedules and quality.

The kitchen also produces tandoori bread from tandoori ovens, and all types of food are prepared in the flight kitchen. The main aim is to provide quality and value for customers.

He said raw materials were received from selected local suppliers, and inspected for quality and validity before being stored. They are then recorded in the data processing system.

Deligiannis said that food samples were sent to bacteriological laboratories for testing before being taken to the kitchen. Preparation are made one day before actual cooking. He said that hygiene control was of prime importance, and the flight kitchen had a well

Meals fit for kings

30,000 meals a day were provided by the Kuwait Aviation Services Company during the Islamic Summit in Kuwait last January. It was a major challenge and Kasco were equal to the task.



A Kasco worker covers a tray with plastic cling sheets. Quality assurance staff check all dishes for cleanliness before taking them to the aircraft.

qualified laboratory staff to check food as it was produced. Quality assurance staff checked all dishes for total cleanliness before being taken to the aircraft.

Kitchen staff underwent medical tests every year and validity cards were renewed only after they passed these tests.

He said that quality and weight control tests were made to ensure conformity with specifications.

Inspectors from Kuwait Municipality carried out spot checks. He said the basic operation of the kitchen was preparation of meals which are then placed on trays inside trolleys and later served to passengers. The next step was to off-load equipment from returning flights and have them cleaned in dish washing machines in readiness for the next flight.

The ramp section takes food and equipment in air-conditioned vehicles, lifts them to the aircraft, removes the used trays and replaces them with the new meals and equipment.

The airconditioned vehicles or loaders deliver food to many different types of aircraft, and despatch staff route the vehicles to aircraft to ensure that the type of foodstuff ordered by the

airlines for a particular flight arrives exactly as and when required.

He said Kasco has so far held eight extensive refresher courses in food preparation and catering, and successful staff were given certificates.

The executive chef is responsible for putting together 12 different menus in various cuisines. Kasco's services are not limited to catering, and have spread to business also. It runs a printing press with modern equipment that cost about KD one million. And produces different brochures, calendars, posters and visiting cards.

Expansion

Kasco has a sizeable maintenance department with a staff of 100, and provides services for aircraft, vehicles, and equipment.

It has hangars, garages and workshops, with specialist engineers and machines to carry out routine checks.

Over the past few years KAC has witnessed a remarkable expansion due to the active air transport traffic to and from Kuwait which has been increasing in importance as a thriving financial and commercial centre in the Gulf area and the

Arab region in general.

This expansion and financial activity naturally required the establishment of a company to handle various services for the KAC fleet and that of other airlines operating to and from Kuwait.

Kasco was established to meet this need with a paid-up capital of KD 4.5 million.

Although a subsidiary of KAC, Kasco has its own independent board of directors.

Kasco managing director Khalid Al Duwaisan, said the company was first conceived in 1980 within the framework of a plan drawn up for control on service quality and to run it on a more commercialised basis.

He said Kasco was responsible for running flight kitchen and handling catering services for KAC and other airlines. Later the company was able to take over the ground handling, traffic, cargo and in-house reservation system.

Kasco has been able to protect and support KAC against price changes by handling such services.

The backbone of Kasco is the catering unit which began actual operations in January 1983.

It is provided with up-to-date catering and kitchen equipment. It has two floors and a



Khalid Al Duwaisan, managing director of Kasco

basement area which houses the equipment, machines and workshops, and cost about KD 3 million.

The flight kitchen has a capacity of 10,000 meals a day and this can be increased to 20,000 daily to meet the summer rush.

Traffic services include ramp handling services, such as baggage handling, cargo handling, and aircraft loading and off-loading.

Engineering services include cleaning aircraft and back-up services.

The restaurant service operates all restaurants and cafeterias at both terminals, as well as the food and beverage service at the airport transit hotel.

Technical services include maintenance of all KAC buildings and ground equipment.

General services include the printing press, laundry, and ground transport for passengers and crews.

By Keith Wells

FOR many years Kuwait has had ambitious plans to try and control all aspects of its oil industry from finding the crude in the ground to selling petrol or fertilisers or other petrochemicals to the consumers. The aim has constantly been to eliminate middlemen so that Kuwait can gain the utmost benefit from its most precious natural resources.

In 1980, these plans took a giant stride forward with the formation of KPC, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation to provide an integrated management structure for the whole spectrum of activities in the oil industry. KPC acts as a sort of overseer to eliminate duplication of effort and facilities and has seven sister companies under its umbrella.

Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) is responsible for all oil and gas exploration and production in Kuwait. Accordingly, over the past two or three years it has handed over all of its refining and exporting facilities to Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) which is solely responsible for all refining in Kuwait and for the local marketing of petroleum products.

PIC, which stands for Petrochemical Industries Company specialises in the production of fertilisers and other petrochemicals and is active both in Kuwait and in several foreign joint ventures.

Kuwait Oil Tanker Corporation (KOTC) operates a fleet of 22 modern tankers ranging from VLCC super tankers to gas tanker ships like the Gas Prince which has been in the news lately. Besides the co-ordination of these four main companies, KPC is also responsible for the marketing of crude oil and products outside of Kuwait. It also owns and manages three subsidiary companies.

The Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) was founded in 1981 and is responsible for KPC's oil and gas exploration projects in areas outside Kuwait. Santa Fe International Corporation, purchased by KPC in 1981, has oil interests in the North Sea, Morocco, Indonesia, Oman, China and Egypt as well as owning C.F. Braun, one of the world's leading refinery engineering companies.

KPC's most recent venture is Kuwait Petroleum International which was formed to co-ordinate and control a number of companies and assets acquired by KPC during 1983. Basically, KPI is the first example of an Opec member controlling both upstream and downstream marketing activities since it gives Kuwait control of petrol stations all over Europe.

By a series of interconnected purchases, KPI gained control of a network of outlets in Denmark.



One of KPI's modern filling stations in Europe.

Aggressive strategy pays dividends for KPI

Q 8: eliminating the middleman

mark, Sweden, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, Italy and Britain. With such a major distribution network at its disposal, KPI decided to create an integrated European image under a completely new brand name. After a lot of market research they hit on the brand name Q 8 with its modern and colourful sails logo and set about applying to the whole network of 400 service stations. It was a major exercise that involved designing everything from stationery to staff uniforms, logos for tanker lorries and station forecourts, cans of oil and other product packages. A major media campaign was launched to introduce Q 8 the first new petroleum brand in Europe for fifteen years.

With its image of friendliness and quality, the Q 8 brand was greeted enthusiastically by both dealers and consumers. Many of the service stations were substantially expanded and upgraded to coincide with the launch and sales volume increased by between 15 and 100 per cent which showed that KPI had read the market correctly. One example of its prescience was the introduction of 2085 Unleaded Gasoline, promoted as the fuel for the next 100 years. This was the first unleaded petrol to be marketed in five European countries and is becoming more and more popular throughout Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. The launch of 2085 anticipated national legislation in favour of unleaded petrol by up to three years and was an impressive example of KPI's ability to anticipate and satisfy its customers' requirements.

Another innovative marketing strategy employed by KPI is

the introduction of a number of new large flagship service stations which have a unique combination of facilities and features. Known as Club Q 8 they include a shop that sells a wide range of goods like sweets, cigarettes, magazines, toys, basic foodstuffs, automobile accessories, other Q 8 products like lubricants, anti freeze or brake fluids, and also a refreshment area where the driver can get a hot or cold drink or snack. The Club Q 8 concept has expanded the role of a service station so that is no longer simply a place to fill your tank.

It also provides computerised invoicing which includes data on trucks' mileage, fuel consumption and other operational information essential to fleet managers. The most fully equipped centres provide relaxation rooms for drivers, showers, truck servicing and repair facilities, restaurants, money changing and extensive parking areas with special security protection. In the near future, the network will spread along the major trucking routes through France and into Britain.

In addition to all of the



However, new brand names and smart liveries aren't enough to launch a new continental company and KPI was aware that it needed to provide a new level of service and quality if it was to succeed. Over 8,000 employees and forecourt staff were given a specialised training programme to reinforce the company's commitment to friendly service at all times. This sophisticated approach, integrating new products like 2085, bright modern design of logos, service stations and liveries, improved customer services and facilities is still not the end of the story.

KPI also set up the Kuwait Petroleum Research and Technology laboratory in Rotterdam. KPI's brief was to design and formulate a complete range of new products to meet the needs of motorists, commercial fleet operators, farmers, the electrical industry and so on. For the launch of Q 8 over 100 new products had to be individually developed.

The first of these innovative products to be marketed was Q 8 Diesel which was launched in Italy in 1986. This was the first diesel in the world without the familiar acrid stench, but with the additional benefit of an anti foam additive. It is quick, clean and easy to pump because of the absence of foam. Q 8 Diesel has other additives which limit corrosion and reduce engine noise. The product was a great success in Italy and is being introduced in other European countries.

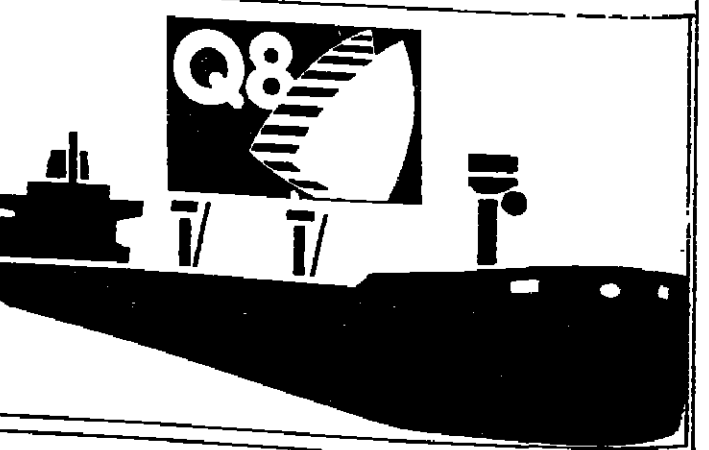
Alongside Q 8 Diesel has been the development of the International Diesel Service which was started in Denmark in 1983 and quickly expanded into Sweden, Holland, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy and Germany. This is a chain of Truck Centres all along the major European trunk routes. IDS provides international haulage companies with a fraud proof credit card system of purchasing fuel all across the con-

tinental. It also operates two refineries in Europe: one in Rotterdam, with a capacity of 75,000 barrels per day, and another in Denmark with a capacity of 60,000 barrels. This means that Kuwaiti crude can be offloaded, from KOTC tankers, refined in Kuwaiti owned facilities in Europe, then marketed throughout the continent in the Q 8 network of service stations. This unique operation has made Kuwait's oil industry one of the most sophisticated and integrated in the world. From Burgan to the Belgian truckstop, from Magway to a petrol station in Milan, the entire interlocking series of operations is completely owned and controlled by Kuwait.

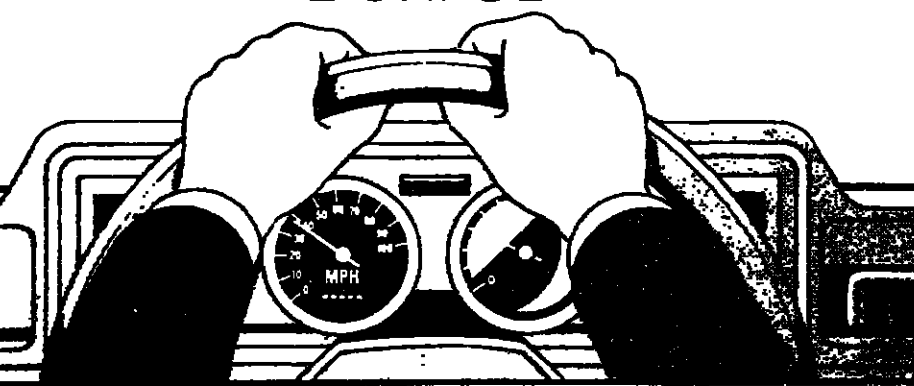
In a statement just one week ago the dynamic president of KPI, Mr Nader Sultan spoke of the company's aggressive intention to continue expansion in the refining and marketing of oil products. He said that the company intends to double its marketing capacity to at least 500,000 barrels per day by buying up new assets as and when opportunities arise.

Both in the UK and in our other existing markets, we have clearly identified the benefits of larger size and, where we can, we will pursue joint ventures in distribution and terminating to gain some economies of scale. He said pointing out that the company's upper limit of expansion would eventually be the one million barrels a day production ceiling set for Kuwait by Opec and also by Kuwait's desire to maintain a secure balance between crude and product sales.

Mr Sultan's comments make it clear that Kuwait Petroleum International is destined to become an even more important player in the European market and that its aggressive strategy will continue to make Kuwait one of the most innovative and sophisticated members of Opec.



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Construction boom may be over but building continues in Kuwait

Planning for the year 2000 AD

By Fathima Ahmed

THE construction boom in Kuwait is over but building has not stopped in Kuwait.

More than 48 government projects, some fairly large and prestigious, costing an estimated KD530 million, are now in the planning stages. Some may transform the face of Kuwait. About 85 new gardens will sprout and some existing ones will be upgraded. Each of Kuwait's four districts will have between eight and 10 gardens. Reforestation is a priority for planners keen on "beautifying Kuwait."

Most projects are being planned in such a way as to complete the modernisation begun dur-

ing the construction boom of the 1970s. Other plans in the offing include the construction of two cities that will accommodate an expected population increase by the year 2000 AD.

The ambitious Olympic Sports Village, which will have everything that sportsmen and sportswomen need, will be the only one of its kind in the Gulf and is expected to be the pride of Kuwait. Another much talked about project which gets off the ground in the current 1985/1990 plan is the extension of the Seif Palace project.

Budget cuts and constraints have made planners and builders more cost-conscious. They are carefully scrutinising each

project to "look at cost variables" and incorporate them in their budgets. For instance, raw materials, their availability, and cost are studied before a project gets started. This is known as "pre-development" study, when fluctuating estimated costs are studied. During the boom years such variables as the rising cost of raw material, availability of labour and other factors, did not matter much. Now, the builders have to keep a close watch on such variables.

Talal Al Othman, director of planning and follow-up office, said: "A thorough investigation confirms the client's requirements and reflects their needs."

Planners feel that clients — ministries and establishments — which pay for construction "must be aware of the rising costs, enabling them to act accordingly."

The key-word is caution. "Why postpone a project after building starts when it is better to plan ahead?" asks Al Othman, whose department oversees the construction of all major government and semi-government buildings.

Security

A major shift in planning policy is evident this year. Planners are emphasising the need for "more secure buildings" and are incorporating public shelters in the designs of all new buildings. Due to the stress on security, costs have shot up. But planners like Al Othman are reluctant to reveal the percentage of cost increase.

The concept of public shelters is widespread in such countries as Finland where all buildings, public and private, have a shelter designed as a car park, the standard design concept.

The average number of visitors to a ministry, or office, the number of Kuwaiti employees, and other such factors are taken into consideration in finalising the design of public shelters.

The shelter will be small or large, depending on the individual need of each ministry, establishment or end user

(client). "No country should overlook the safety factor in design," insists Al Othman.

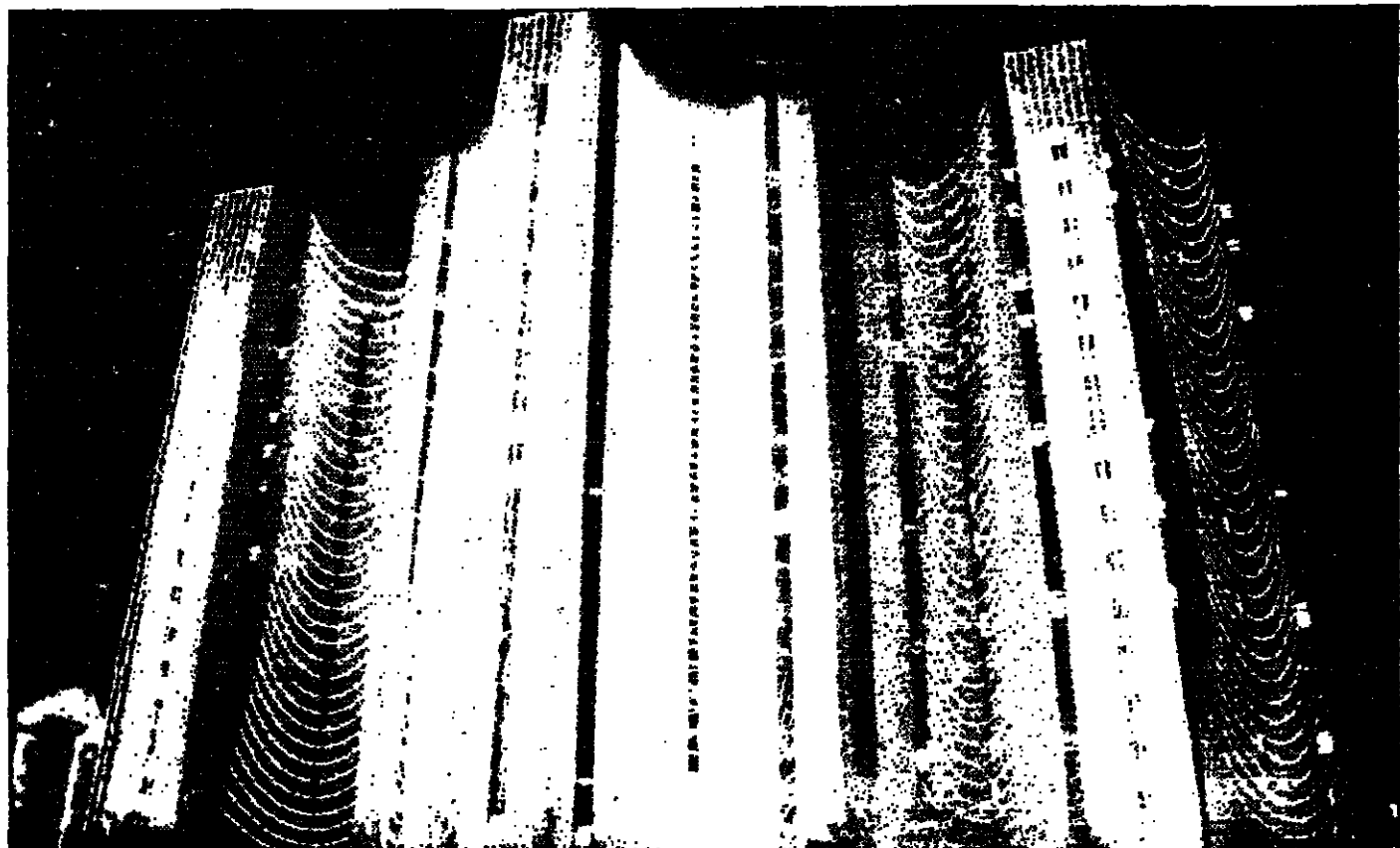
The construction industry, says Al Othman, has stabilised and is more selective. The so-called boom — when building companies mushroomed — has ended. Surprisingly, the cost of construction has gone down. Al Othman said: "We gauge the trend (of cost) by analysing bids, which are now coming in lower and lower." Factors responsible for this trend, he said, include a healthy labour market, availability of equipment and expertise. "For example, if labour is imported, construction costs double, for example from KD 20 to KD 40 per labourer imported," he explained.

Raw material is now supplied by local companies. Kuwaiti contractors are encouraged to bid for prestigious projects, in keeping with government policy to support the local market.

As Kuwait relies heavily on imports, delays are inevitable, but are minimal due to ready availability of raw material and equipment on the local market. There have been no major delays but work has been affected, said Al Othman.

Pre-planning is considered to be "money well-spent", particularly as it irones out problems in the initial stage. Al Othman admits "no plan is infallible" but apparently, planners are "prepared", giving them a chance to make better judgements and re-evaluate initial designs.

MPW's planning and follow-up office supervises the building and maintenance of major complexes, and parks, for all service ministries in Kuwait. Some prestigious projects in the planning stages are the Amiri Diwan, Kuwait University campus, the Olympic Sports Complex. In the health sector, hospitals for infectious diseases, psychiatric and dental care are to be built. Three hospitals — Amir, Mubarak and Farwana are to be expanded. A Postal Services Complex, Coast Guard headquarters and



The banking complex decked out in lights during a previous National Day celebration.

piers on three islands for them are also being planned. Headquarters for several ministries, including the Interior, MPW and MEW, will be built. KPC has plans to build an oil-sector complex.

The projects come under the 1985-1990 five year plan and were approved by a higher committee, comprising cabinet ministers. Some 85 new gardens, in addition to upgrading existing ones, are also in the pipeline.

The Amiri Diwan project gets off the ground in March or April this year and will be built on the same site as the present Seif Palace. "Actually, it is an extension of the Seif Palace," explained Al Othman. The builders plan to backfill the site facing the sea and incorporate the existing building in the new annex. "The three major elements in the new Amiri Diwan would be the office of HH the Amir, the offices of HH the Crown Prince and the Council of Ministers." This project is expected to cost about KD 84 million and will be completed in about five years time.

Another big project is the Kuwait University, which has been split in two stages. In the first phase, what is known as the transition period and ends in 1992, the present campuses in Khaldiya, Shuwaikh, Keifan, Adliya and Jabriya will be expanded to accommodate a student population of about 20,000.

University

In the second phase, which begins after 1992, a new university campus will be built. This will accommodate another 20,000 students. A site for the second university has already been selected and the plan is nearly complete.

To begin with the Olympic Sports Village will have a sports stadium, indoor diving and swimming facility. Later, it would be expanded to include "all facilities for sports people, becoming a self-contained village."

Due to the large inflow of letters in Kuwait, one project in the offing that might alleviate delays, is the Automated Postal Services Complex, which would have an automated sorting system for "early distribu-

tion of all incoming and outgoing mail."

There is a wide-spread belief that many projects have been cancelled due to budget cuts. Al Othman denies such reports and says: "They were not cancelled but postponed to re-evaluate designs and modify them." Careful scrutiny, he justifies, pays in the long run.

"Modifying design is less expensive than changing while work is underway on a project," he explains.

Changes

Plenty of changes occur from the time a project is planned to the time it actually starts. Such factors as changed needs, capacity, nature of function and size are studied during the planning stages.

Some clients — the end user — as Al Othman refers to the ministries and other public services, are "not aware of the implications, particularly the cost, of modifying designs."

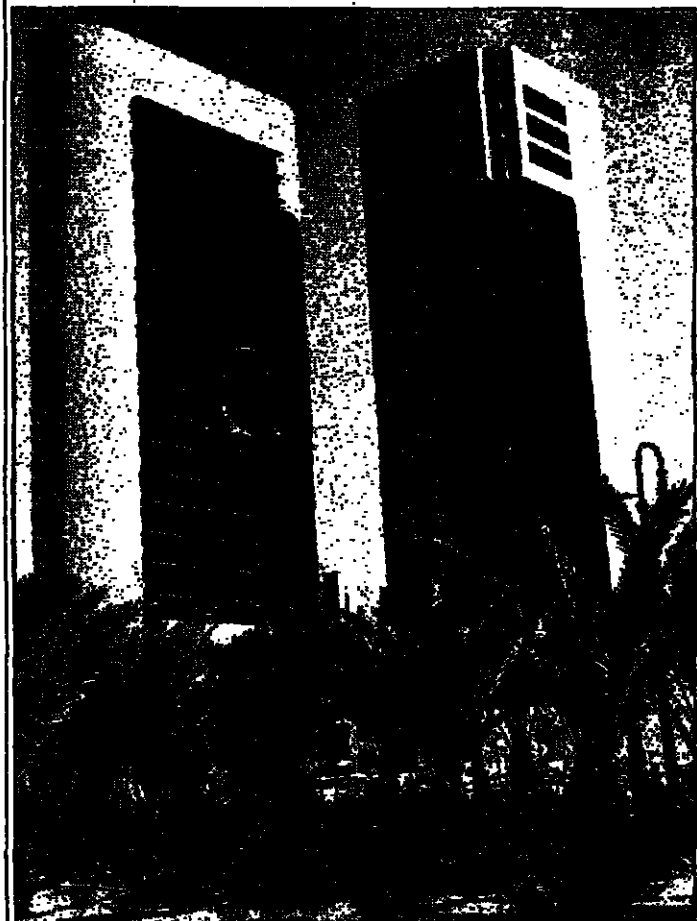
In most instances, the client is taken by surprise by a sudden leap in costs due to modifications, he says explaining the major difficulty of planning and design.

He said construction work starts only after the estimated cost is approved by the client. "Isn't it better to have the funds earmarked for a particular project than delay it after work begins?" he asks.

Tenders are to be called shortly for several projects, which Al Othman did not specify. Others are still in phase one of the designing stage and may take a few years before they get off the ground.

Islamic aesthetics are being imbibed by architects to please the clients, keen on preserving "the heritage of Kuwait". The designs are a blend of the old and the new. We are taking the best of both worlds: Oriental and Occidental. But the aim is to make them (buildings) functional, with an exterior which certainly has touches of Islamic design.

As many of the projects are still in the initial stages, it is difficult to describe what they would look like; some projects, like the Amiri Diwan, are too sensitive to discuss; but by the look of things, the emphasis on 2000 AD buildings is certainly "high-tech" yet Oriental.



Two of the new high-rise buildings in Kuwait.

Greetings to
His Highness the Amir

**Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad
Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**

Amir of Kuwait

and to His Highness

Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah

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Fighting a relentless battle against cancer

In the last 12 years the number of cancer cases in Kuwait has nearly doubled. Hope is provided to the terminally ill by a team of dedicated doctors and nurses at the Kuwait Cancer Centre who are trying to educate the public on the importance of early detection in treating this killer disease.

By Fathima Ahmed

KUWAIT's health policy has been to provide better facilities to prevent, treat and cure diseases. This policy is also applied for the treatment of cancer. Hope is provided to the terminally ill patients at the Kuwait Cancer Centre (KCC) by a team of extremely dedicated, but frustrated, doctors, who are fighting a relentless battle to help patients. Often, their efforts are wasted because a large percentage of patients seek help in the third or fourth stage of the disease. But there is always a slim ray of hope — early detection giving 80 to 90 per cent chance of survival.

KCC doctors bank on that slim chance. The key-word now is "detection."

"I don't feel anything or any pain doctor," is a statement often heard by Dr Ahmed Lutfi Al Mubarak, a lung cancer specialist at the Kuwait Cancer Centre (KCC). "This is the time

treatment must start and will help a patient," says Dr Mubarak, who like his other colleagues at the KCC has been stressing the factor of early detection as one way to arrest cancer.

The incidence of cancer has risen over the years, particularly in the last few years. Dr Mubarak explains: "More precise, accurate and definite diagnosis means we are able to identify such cases in larger numbers." Though treatment, in terms of availability of latest medical technology, has improved, doctors in Kuwait, like in other parts of the world, are unable to control the spread of lung and breast cancer.

In the last 12 years the number of cases has nearly doubled; recorded statistics show cases rose from 431 in 1974 to 950 in 1987.

Lung cancer is the biggest killer among males and has been rated number three among females in the last few years. Needless to say, but

smoking is the cause in some 80 per cent of the cases. And as more and more women have taken to smoking, lung and bronchial cancer is spreading fast among them. Breast cancer among women is the number one killer and accounted for the largest number of cases — 157 — in 1987.

Approach
This has led to a major shift in the approach to the treatment of cancer. While treating patients, doctors have launched a long-term strategy to fight the single factor that needs immediate attention: creating awareness.

Doctors feel if people are better informed about the disease, it would be possible to detect cancer cases at an early stage, thus having a better chance of treating it. As lung and breast cancer are most common in Kuwait, doctors are disseminating information about these two types — lung and breast — of carcinoma.

The campaign promotes two



Dr Ahmed Lutfi Al Mubarak

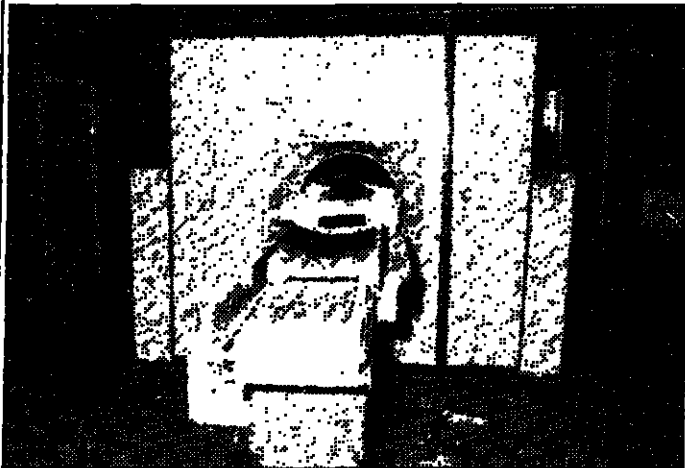


Dr Hussain Jazaf

ideas: the concept of a family doctor and breast self-examination (BSE).

Family doctors, feels Dr Mubarak, would be in a better position to monitor an individual's health. Assuming he or she is aware of a man or a woman's history, the doctor would spot any abnormalities, if any, faster. Doctors like Mubarak are lobbying for establishing the scheme of "family doctor" treatment in Kuwait.

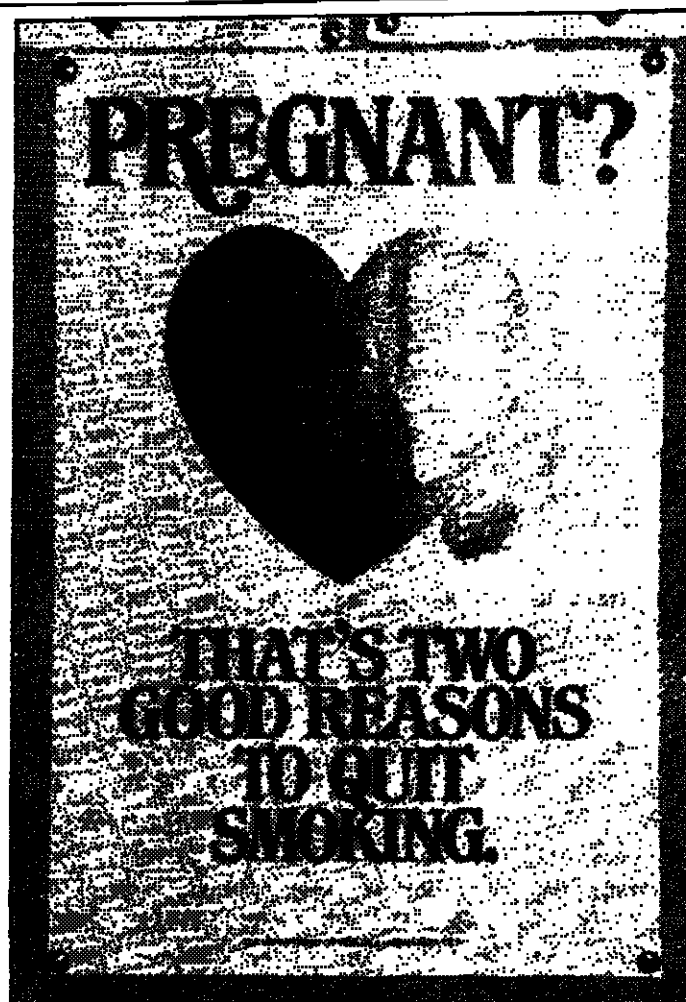
The concept of annual screening, particularly after age 40, is another idea floating among doctors. Though this would be helpful, some doctors see it as an expensive affair.



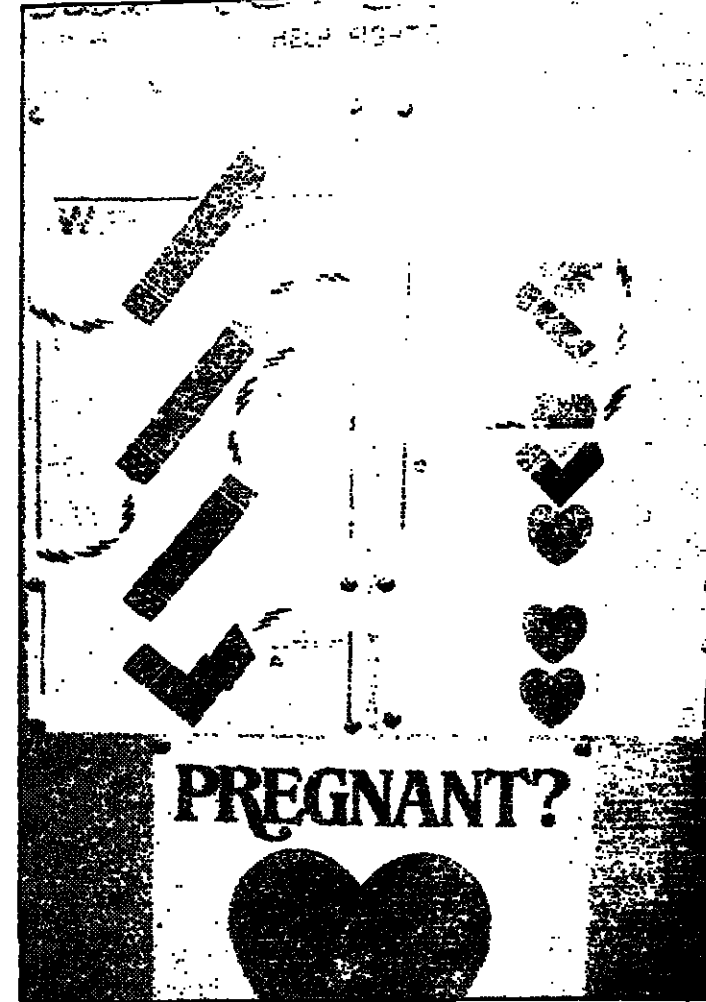
The C.T. scan 1200



Doctors view results on a TV monitor.



As lung and breast cancer are most common in Kuwait, doctors are disseminating information about these two types of cancers.



However, they recommend periodic medical check-ups for people over the age of 40, preferably every three years; for over 50 year-olds, every year.

"Isn't prevention better?" asks Dr Mubarak, who feels extremely frustrated when patients come in a "serious condition." "There is so little we can do to help when the cancer has spread and has reached the brain," he moans. Medical aid becomes ineffective in spite of the availability of high energy electron therapy — which can treat the disease at depths of two/three centimetres; magnetic resonance imaging, which helps in localising treatment.

All these treatments would prove beneficial if the cancer is detected at an early stage," stresses Dr Mubarak. In early diagnosis, the survival rate is between 80 and 90 per cent. This is what KCC doctors are now aiming at for patients in Kuwait. As they cannot control the disease, they are trying to influence detection.

The first step in a long-term plan is the introduction of a systematic BSE in Hospitals Programme, launched this month. Some 300 nurses, representing Sabah, Addan and other hospitals, were selected from the Sabah Medical District and are being taught BSE methods. Nurses study anatomy and physiology, advances made in diagnosis and treatment and the technique of self-examination. This is the first stage of the programme. In the second, the nurses would teach "healthy women" to conduct BSE, first among hospital patients — for example at the maternity hospital. The two-year programme, doctors hope, would create a network of nurses — and hopefully healthy women — to spread the message that "breast self-examination is a healthy way to arrest the disease before it spreads."

BSE is the most practical, cost-free approach for early detection," asserts Dr Hussain Jazaf. Doctors foresee initial resistance, and even rejection, but they are confident that if enough information is circulated, it would work. In this programme the keyword is "practice regularly, preferably once a month and make it a regular health habit."

Pamphlets are to be circulated among normal, healthy women, urging them to practice. How many would practice remains to be seen. "It has worked in the States. I don't see why it can't work in Kuwait," asserts Dr Jazaf.

Nurses' training is one aspect of the two-year programme. The other is to evaluate how many cases, if any, were detected at an early stage among women who participated in the BSE programme to see if the campaign has borne any fruit.

smoker, who is definitely affected by smoking." "Smokers are not only jeopardising their own health, but they are putting others at risk," stresses Dr Mubarak. He also urges people "not to neglect their health." "If someone has developed smoker's cough, he seldom considers a doctor," complains Dr Mubarak. Consult physicians in their message.

"There is no cause for alarm. Doctors can help if you help yourself," they say, emphasising the benefits of early detection of cancer. This is where the experienced, highly educated family doctor would play his role: rush the patient to hospital in case of emergency.

Due to the increased risk of cancer, doctors are taking a hard look at the social structure and encouraging early marriage among women (late marriage is considered to be a risk factor for breast cancer); discourage childbirth after the age of 35 and are trying to deal with stress thrust on modern-day career women.

"Cancer is a depressing illness. No one wants to admit its presence. Everyone fears the disease. Patients withdraw if they learn about it," said Dr Jazaf. There is no cause to fear it but there is every reason to fight it. Doctors don't tell patients about the disease but they make sure that their patient is not neglected. This is done through daily visits made by members, like Dalal Al Ghanim, of the Cancer Club.

"We try to bring a little bit of cheer in their lives. Most patients welcome our visits, particularly if they are non-Kuwaitis and don't have their families with them." Such visits are part of the Cancer Club's programme to help cancer victims, who are also provided with expensive medical aid.



The RT 3000 ultrasound machine

Educating women about breast cancer

The Cancer Club of Kuwait, through the Kuwaiti Women's Cultural Society is trying to disseminate information about cancer as well as bring a little cheer into patients' lives.

"Many women turned up for the first few lectures," recalls Dalal. Then, their numbers dwindled.

"We hardly had five women attending a lecture," Dalal said. This was last year. So, doctors decided on a new strategy.

"If they don't come to us, we'll go to them," said Dalal. Periodically, lectures are held at schools in one of the four health districts. Girls' schools were their target. The Club would invite students from a group of schools to attend the lecture. At some lectures, women who had been treated for the disease talked about the benefits of BSE and about their psychological trauma.

"We hoped to get an audience of under 300 girls and female teachers. We were surprised when larger numbers turned up. They all seemed interested," said Dalal Al Ghanim.

Jeopardising
The idea is to talk to students, who in turn, would take the message to their mothers back home.

"Health education must begin at home," assert Drs Mubarak and Jazaf.

If teenagers, or 11/12 year-olds start smoking, "it is the responsibility of parents and the society" to reform them. And "if people smoke in offices, homes or public places" they should consider what they are "doing to the health of the non-

smoker, who is definitely affected by smoking."

"Smokers are not only jeopardising their own health, but they are putting others at risk," stresses Dr Mubarak. He also urges people "not to neglect their health."

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Above and below: Cheerfully decorated children's nursery at the Kuwait Cancer Society.



Dalal Al Ghanim: most patients welcome our visits

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By Gail Seery

IN 1987, Kuwait made a return to the international rally world, holding its eighth International Rally, the second round of the Middle East Championship. It also hosted the first round of a newly created rally series, the Marlboro Desert Challenge — a fitting step for the country which held the first ever Gulf Rally, some fifteen years ago. For the first time for six years, a Kuwait driver, Tareq Al Wazzan, took a victory in an international event, winning the Jordan Jeep rally in December of last year.

The present season sees the Motorsports Divisions of the KT Club (KTMSD), the organisation responsible for running motorsports in Kuwait, trying to learn from past mistakes and to carry Kuwait into a new era of rallying, paying less attention to the conditions which are prevalent in other Gulf countries and further afield, and more to the unique needs of Kuwait rallying and its drivers.

It tends to be forgotten outside Kuwait that this was the first Gulf country to hold rallies, as long ago as 1973. Rothmans supported the rallies, later bringing Dave Richards and John Spiller to organise the events and to assist local drivers.

According to current Chairman of the Motorsports division, Ahmed Al Hilal, an early Kuwait event was held in 1975, under the leadership of David Richards, now in charge of Prodrive, and the BMW assault on the World Championship.

In 1978, however, government restrictions against tobacco advertising led Rothmans to pull out of Kuwait rallies, leaving a very real void. Although Rothmans were and still are active elsewhere in the Gulf, most notably in sponsoring Qatari veteran Saeed Al Hajri, they have had a low profile in Kuwait since, occasionally sponsoring local drivers, like Ahmed Al Hilal.

Tareq Al Wazzan's rallying career had been taking off at about this time. 1978 saw him visiting the Burmah Rally in Scotland, and the Cyprus Rally, making him the first Arab driver ever to rally outside the Middle East. He was unhappy to see Rothman's departure, and the potential

Motor rallying takes off in a big way in Kuwait



Kuwait's drivers and their friends pose outside a local hotel.

demise of Rallies in Kuwait. He led a delegation of drivers, including Ahmed Al Hilal, to the KT Club, where they explained their interest in the sport, and asked to be allowed to set up a sports association under its auspices. "We explained that the people wanted this sport," said Ahmed Al Hilal. "We then formed a committee and selected a chairman. In fact, Al Hilal was the first chairman, acting with Tareq Al Wazzan as his deputy."

The association held its first international rally in 1978, with Harry Kalstrom as Clerk of the Course, and inaugurated the Kuwait National Championship, consisting of a series of local rallies with an overall winner to be declared at the end of the January to December season. Kuwait's eight international events were held with different sponsors over the years.

"It was easier in those days," said Hilal. The regulations from FIA were more straightforward and there was less work involved in organising the rallies. Marshalls were generally found from amongst the

British Servicemen in Kuwait and their families.

Altogether there were eight international over the years, held with a varying degree of success and efficiency. The first was won by Bill Murphy, driving a Volvo 242. Tareq Al Wazzan was second, in a BMW 2002 with John Spiller as his co-driver. Spiller went on to co-drive for both Saeed Al Hajri and Mohammed Bin Sulayem before moving into a team management position for Prodrive this year.

The 1979 rally was won by Harry Kalstrom in a Datsun 160 J, with Shekhar Mehta in second place in an identical car. Third place that year was taken by Jean Ragnotti of France in a Renault 5.

Kalstrom and Mehta were back the following year: this time Mehta took first, and Kalstrom second places. But in 1981 it was the turn of the Kuwaitis to take prominence. First was Ali Zafri, partnered by Saeed Ashkanani, second was Ali Al Barami and third was Faez Chihab.

This was to prove a very brief ascendancy. Rothmans' David

Richards, who won the world navigators title in 1981, partnering Ari Vatanen, had found the driver he wanted to back, and with Spiller beside him, Al Hajri was to prove unstoppable. Since that time, which marked the advent of the big works teams, no Kuwait born entrant has succeeded in winning the Kuwait International rally.

Sure enough, in the next international, which was held in 1983, Al Hajri took victory in an Opel Manta, chased by Kuwait based pairing Michel Saleh and Toni Samia in their Toyota Celica. Third was Ahmed Al Zafri in a Datsun 160 J. Saleh won the rally in 1984, ahead of Zafri and Ali Barami.

In 1985, the rally was won by newcomer Mohammed Bin Sulayem. This was undoubtedly the most catastrophic rally ever held in Kuwait. Organisers had tried to hold an Organ-style endurance event with a 1700 km route. The route was not good, road books contained mistakes, and the organisers timing was impossible for crews to meet. At one stage

First Gulf country to hold rally



Tareq Al Wazzan battling into second place in Kuwait's first International.

Sulayem looked likely to be the only finisher, as Al Hajri went out on stage 3, and Michel Saleh dropped out a few stages later. However, some of the lateness penalties were rightly dropped, enabling some, but not many, to stay in the running. Ottmar Lange and partner Josef Miskulig were second with Ahmed Al Nasser in third place.

Misconception

In 1986 there was no international rally. A number of factors governed this. For one thing, Harry Carpenter had left the country taking with him his experience and contacts with the British servicemen, who had been so indispensable as marshalls. There was also a measure of conflict within the club, that made it difficult to go ahead and produce a full scale rally.

It is not true however, that Fisa, the governing body for

the sport, did not allow Kuwait to hold an international rally because of the problems of the year before. This is a popular misconception and totally false.

Faez Chihab was the first National Champion, in 1980. The following year Al Wazzan won, in Toyota Celica, with Toni Samia beside him. Michel Saleh won the championship in both 1982 and 83, and Ahmed Al Zafri was Kuwait national champion the following year. Ahmed Al Hilal won the championship in both 1986 and 87, and is currently leading this year's championship, chased closely by Tareq Al Wazzan who, having taken a few years break from the sport, made a successful comeback in 1987, and now hopes to regain the Kuwait Championship title.

1987 saw something of rally renaissance in Kuwait. The eighth international was unanimously deemed the best ever

organised by the club, and the marks awarded by Fisa observer Costas Glossos bore this out. The rally scored a high number of points, and was organised by Faez Chihab, with the assistance of ex-Saleh navigator Toni Samia.

Kuwait had also been chosen to host the first round of the new Marlboro Desert Challenge, a new concept in 4x4 rallies, which was expected to enable an ordinary driver without heavy works backing to compete realistically. It achieved its aims in that Tareq Alyan, driving a standard jeep subsequently became Marlboro Desert Challenge champion with only fifth, second and sixth places to his credit, by an anomaly in the points system.

However, it was the mismanagement of the Jeep rally which brought about a series of major changes for the future of the club. The rank and file members had become increasingly

alienated by the autocratic style of leadership adopted by the association's chairman.

Ottmar Lange, who gave an interview to the Arab Times, criticising not only the organisers but also the sponsors and promoters, was banned from driving for a year, and Arab Times sponsored driver Tareq Al Wazzan was banned for a month for an unbelievably minor infringement of club rules.

At the elections for the new committee which followed shortly afterwards, the members showed a strong support for Lange, who was elected to the committee by a landslide, and a condemnation of the previous committee by their refusal to elect those who had held prominent positions the year before. Both bans were lifted, and the new committee, led by Ahmed Al Hilal, and comprising Lange, Mansour Al Mulla, an ex-Chairman of the committee, Ghazi Al Zafri, Wael Khoury, Ali Al Barami and Imad Mahdi Habib, settled down to redefine the activities of the association.

Under their leadership the association changed its name to the KTMSD, and restructured the national championship season to take into account the long hot summer. The new season will run from September to April, a seemingly obvious step to take, but one which has never been adopted by the Gulf Countries.

In the first local rally of the current season, the club were confronted with so many entrants that they had to adapt the timing for the event accordingly. Some thirty-one entrants started the rally, the highest number ever for a local event in Kuwait. These were supported by a high number of marshalls of all nationalities, who were efficiently controlled and supported.

The next and ninth Kuwait International rally will be held on March 17 & 18, under the leadership of Clerk of the Course Wael Khoury, and the Arab Times wishes the new committee every success in its endeavours to produce Kuwait's best rally to date.

Some rare photos from the early days Down memory lane



Kalstrom starts the 1979 International.



Saeed Al Hajri in the early days.



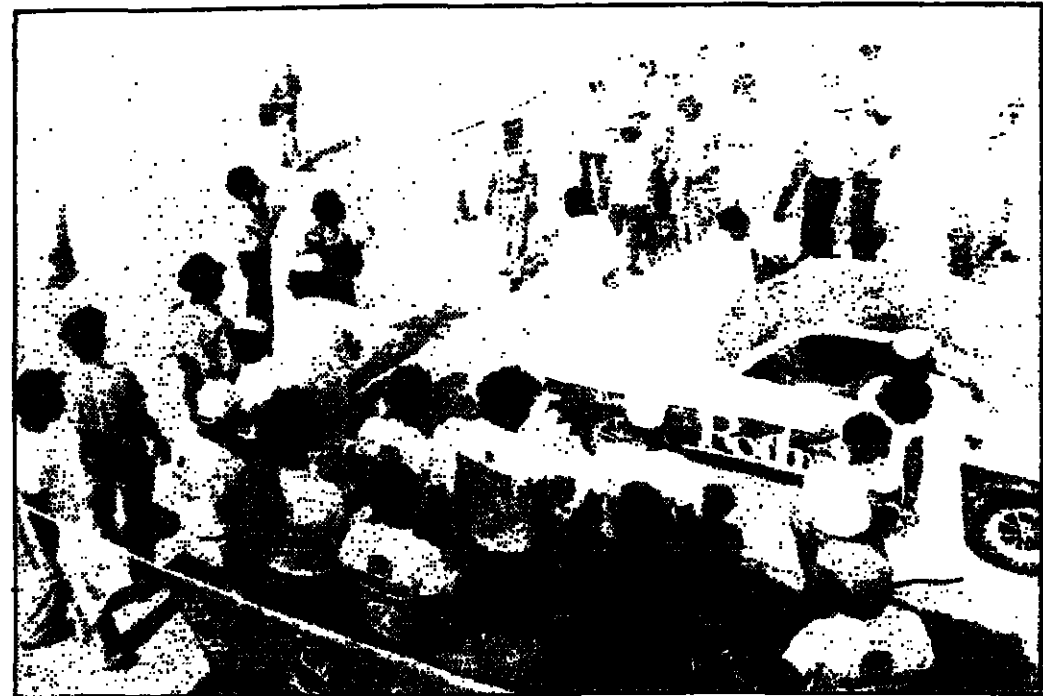
A very young pair of rally veterans: Tareq Alyan (left) and Ahmed Al Hilal.



Bill Murphy, winner of the first Kuwait International in 1978.



Harry Kalstrom takes a break during a very early Kuwait rally.



A rally start: a small affair compared with today

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The Amir of Kuwait

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The Crown Prince and Prime Minister
and the people of Kuwait.

Kuwait's brave firemen prove equal to the task

Risking life and limb for Kuwait

By Lima Al Khalafawi

It took 16 hours at the Sea Island oil terminal for fire fighters to extinguish the fire caused by an Iranian missile and 21 hours for them to put out the fire aboard the tanker Sangari last year.

Kuwait owes a great deal to its fire fighters who also risked their lives to extinguish the fire at the liquid gas plant in May and averted a major disaster because the fire could easily have detonated the huge storage tanks. Those involved in the incident still talk about the firemen with awe.

The Fire Department also put out a huge fire at Messilah area in 1985. It started at a small place but soon covered 15 kilometres, including warehouses, factories and many companies.

These are just but a few examples of some thousands of incidents in which firemen risked their lives to save the country from major disasters. Before 1946 citizens had to cooperate to put out any fires by using primitive methods, such as buckets of sand or water.

In 1940, a Dodge water tanker was used by the mun-

icipality to put out fires, but the tanker had to be filled with water by using buckets.

In 1947 a new Ford water tanker fitted with a pump and fire hoses was bought, but it had to be pulled by donkeys. The tanker had a capacity of 50 gallons and used water from two local pools, known as Gharabally and Ben Doaj.

The following year a fully equipped Ford fire engine was brought to Kuwait and a crew of 12 firemen were trained by Kuwait Oil Company in Ahmadi. There were two shifts to give round-the-clock protection against fires.

Merged

In 1949, the Fire Department had a new vehicle and a tanker, with a crew of 24 firemen. The station was located in the centre of the city and provided with a direct telephone line, and was called Centre No 1.

In 1950, the centre was provided with another four tankers and the staff increased to 30. In 1955, a small fire brigade was developed as part of the works administration and was provided with two pumps to fight fires that occurred on the premises.

In 1955 the municipality's

fire brigade merged with the works administration brigade, resulting in a total of three fully equipped fire fighting vehicles, one tanker and a crew of 16. This was named Centre No 2.

Centre No 3 was set up in Shuwaikh. A wooden boat fitted with a pump was used to fight fires in the port.

Centre No 4 was established at Jeevan, and 30 people joined it for four months training.

In 1959 Centre No 5 was established at the port and provided with one fire fighting vehicle, one ambulance, one tanker and eight fire men.

The following year secondary school graduates joined the training course at this centre and were later sent for a training course in the UK.

In 1962 the fire fighting forces joined the Public Works Administration and the head of the municipality at the time, Sheikh Fahd Al Salem, issued a decision renaming the centres according to their location.

A fire fighting centre was established in Failaka, and consisted of two tankers, one vehicle and 12 men working two shifts a day.

From 1963 until 1983, efforts continued to develop the fire fighting services in Kuwait, and more centres were set up in Sal-

miya area, Shuwaikh, Kuwait City, Al Hilali and the port area.

Other centres were established and provided with modern equipment and trained officers in an effort to develop the fire fighting services.

A salvage centre was established in Al Salmi, Umm Al Aish and Nuwaiseeb.

Batches of Kuwaiti youths were sent abroad for training courses.

A total of 1,750, including officers, fire men and technicians worked in the Fire Department.

The fire brigade department became fully independent in 1983, and training, financial and administrative, fire prevention and fighting administrations were set up within the general administration.

Cuts

Despite the budget cuts in Kuwait, the Fire Department is getting KD 7 million in addition to its original budget because of the importance of its role in Kuwait, the deputy director-general, Abdul Aziz Al Raheem, told the Arab Times.

He said the Fire Department had imported modern equipment and sent employees abroad to be trained in using



Fire boats extinguishing the blaze on the Sangari.

the equipment whenever necessary. He added that the department kept abreast with the latest fire fighting techniques used in advanced countries.

He said about 1,000 fires occurred every year and blamed the public for this.

He said fires in houses topped the list, and were generally caused by frayed electric wires and cooking accidents.

Car fires were the next largest number. He said some people set fire to their cars deliberately in order to collect insurance, but such schemes rarely succeeded because they could be easily detected.

He said that a first class fire service was a necessity rather than a luxury in Kuwait because of its climate and its major industries.

Convince

Kuwait was indeed fortunate to have such an excellent and highly dedicated force to protect it against fires, he said.

A fireman with 13 years experience, Eid Al Saeedi, told the Arab Times about some incidents in his career and the dangerous situations he had faced.

He said it took him one week

to convince his family to allow him to join the Fire Department because they believed it was a very dangerous job, and after so many years they were still worried whenever he went out on a call. "Putting your life at risk, surrounded by fire and heat, is a job for brave men," he said.

Another fireman, Fadil Al Ali, who has 15 years experience, rejected the idea of encouraging his children to be



Abdul Aziz Al Raheem, deputy director-general of the Kuwait Fire Department

firemen. He pointed out that it was a dangerous job with one's life in danger every minute. He said there were marks on his arms and body to remind him of the dangers he had faced.

Both firemen said the department had all modern equipment and facilities, but lacked maintenance after heavy use.

Al Saeedi said that they braved the flames while expecting a sudden explosion at the liquid gas plant, and their main concern was to prevent the heat reaching the oil tanks at Shuaiba. Strong heat could be felt from 25 metres away, they used cold water to cool the tanks and waited anxiously for more than seven hours. They managed to extinguish the fire that lasted seven days in 1984 and saved the area from a huge explosion.

Al Ali said that most fires took place in Shuwaikh, which was a congested industrial area. The fires were generally caused by frayed wires or cigarette ends. He spoke about a big fire that took place at the building of the Kuwait Flour Mills Company in the '70s and covered two floors. He said that chemicals and foam were used and great efforts were made

before the fire was put out.

He praised the efforts of the security and protection department in making people aware of the risks involved and said this helped to reduce the number of fires in Shuwaikh.

Al Saeedi blamed the department for not promoting firemen who held intermediate certificates and restricting promotions to those with secondary certificates.

He said they received poor compensation for their job, and the danger allowance was only KD45, which was much less than that paid in Europe or the United States.

Both men said that those who had serious injuries and were unable to fight fires were transferred to administrative posts.

New recruits having secondary certificates were trained for six months and then sent to the US or England for two years continuous training, but they were only paid KD60 per month during this time, they said.

The Fire Department asks the public to contact it immediately on telephone number 105 in case of an emergency.



A group of firemen report for duty.

Kuwait's agricultural policy bearing fruit

By Jadranka Porter

KUWAITI farmers must be among the most fortunate in the world. When they need land they can lease it from the government for a negligible amount.

For every litre of milk they sell the government pays them 80 fils and for every kilogram of tomatoes they take to the market they receive 50 fils from the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries. A farmer who digs a well can get up to KD3,000, and one who needs a tractor can hire it for a pittance.

The farms are sprayed with insecticide free of charge, greenhouses are supplied with desalinated water and electricity at subsidised prices. Loans, seeds, fertilisers and plant protection services are available on favourable terms.

Yet Kuwait is far from being as green as its people would like it to be. It imports about 90 per cent of the locally consumed food and its agricultural development is an uphill struggle for everyone involved.

Looked in a continuing battle with the elements, the Paaf has turned to the latest advances in science and technology to help overcome hurdles posed by the harsh climate, sandy soil and brackish water. Heavy subsidies that cost about KD 4 million in plantation alone, are part of the struggle to beat the inhospitable terrain. But subsidies are not permanent, warns Ahmed Al Naqib, the deputy general manager for technical affairs at the Paaf. They are meant as an incentive and the government has reserved the right to withdraw some of the concessions from time to time.

This was particularly true in

the case of greenhouses which use desalinated water. "If everyone interested to run a greenhouse could do so under the government's programme of subsidies we would have run out of desalinated water" says Al Naqib.

This is the kind of enthusiasm the government managed to generate but it was forced to curb, in order to maintain its programme within sensible limits. There is no way that Kuwait can match Saudi Arabia's heavily subsidised wheat production simply because, unlike its neighbour, it has not got arable land and large quantities of fresh water.

But the scope of government efforts and assistance are by no means exhausted. The number of farms is on the increase and all around there have been encouraging developments. Efforts to plant more crops and produce more milk, meat and fish are not flagging.

Self-sufficiency

Kuwait's territory extends over 1,781,800 hectares and only close to 160,000 hectares are suitable for agriculture, most of it being grazing land. Crops are grown on 4,500 hectares which produced in 1985/86 KD 26 million worth of vegetables. Some 600 farms are situated in Wafra near the Saudi border and Abdali on Iraqi border. Forestry area extends over some 3,000 hectares.

Kuwait's self-sufficiency in poultry is about 40 per cent, in eggs 45 per cent and in fresh vegetables 20 per cent. Kuwait can meet 40 per cent of its fish, 26 per cent of its milk and 20 per cent of its meat consumption. Kuwait has more than 275,000 date palms out of which more



Locally grown tomatoes.

than a third is in fruit producing some 3,500 tons of dates.

Some 65 per cent in green fodder requirements is met by local farms.

Scarcity of fertile soil and fresh water has prompted the government to explore ways to overcome these shortages. A detailed soil survey and review of land use are shortly to be carried out in cooperation with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science. Treated sewage water is used in addition to desalinated sea water and the underground brackish water to irrigate the farms. Reserves of underground fresh water to be used in emergency are available in Rawdatain and Umm Al Aish.


The pride of government efforts in agriculture is the experimental farm in Omariya where new methods and crops examined and tried using the

expertise offered by United Nations Development Programme and Food and Agriculture Organisation. In this respect Kuwait has been a frontrunner in the Gulf, and local farmers have benefited from the advice proffered by experts at Omariya. The farm, established in 1953 has conducted experiments in growing vegetables, cereal crops, flowers, fruit trees, and fodder. It has also bred and raised cattle, poultry, sheep and goats. It has studied soil fertility, irrigation systems and water salinity.

With no shortage of advice and incentives from the government well-organised farmers should find their business a lucrative one, says Al Naqib. Consumers have no reason to complain either especially when in the next three months the crops from Kuwaiti farms hit the market. March, April and May are the months when vegetables are the cheapest in Kuwait.



The latest advances in agricultural technology are employed to overcome hurdles imposed by a harsh climate.



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to the Government and to
the people of Kuwait
on the occasion of **KUWAIT'S**
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A growing emphasis on vocational training

By Jadranka Porter

THE concept of higher education in Kuwait is undergoing considerable changes with a growing emphasis on vocational training, seen as an effective vehicle to raise productive Kuwaiti workforce, according to a Kuwait University professor, Dr Hassan Al Ebraheem.

But making vocational training attractive for Kuwaitis, who generally believe that nothing short of university education is acceptable, is proving to be among the most challenging tasks facing the education authorities.

Efforts to upgrade the concept of vocational training are particularly pertinent in view of the fact that 40 per cent of Kuwait's population is under 15 and the whole student and school attending population in the country numbers close to half a million, said Dr Ebraheem.

Most of them have great hopes for career prospects in Kuwait. However the current profile of the Kuwaiti workforce falls by far short of the country's manpower requirements. It is generally believed that vocational training, if given proper importance, can right a few wrongs. "In a developing country as ours, economic priorities should largely determine the educational priorities," Ebraheem the former education minister, pointed out.

More than five per cent of the



Dr Hassan Al Ebraheem: attitudes towards manual work have to change

total national budget is allocated to education which has been undergoing rapid expansion over the past 15 years, said Ebraheem. The education policy is geared to help achieve the goal of raising the proportion of Kuwaitis in the country to 50 per cent of the total population by the end of this century.

"I believe that a country's system of education will either make it or break it," said Ibrahim. "Most countries are under pressure to evaluate the degree to which the educational system is geared to meet the actual economic needs of the country. The same concerns have led us to undertake such a re-evaluation in Kuwait, with the aim of redirecting our young genera-

tion to better serve their country and become more productive citizens."

Among the first steps taken to boost the image of vocational training colleges was to put them under the umbrella of higher education with degrees from the training colleges being equivalent to the ones available at the university. At the same time the number of new students admitted to the university was considerably reduced. "In practice this means that academically gifted students should go to the university, while those with more practical abilities are encouraged to enrol at one of the specialist vocational colleges," said Ebraheem.

But to make vocational training popular much more will have to change than just a few rules. "Trying to make technical training attractive to the young people in Kuwait needs not only a well-defined government policy but also a change in the attitude of people at large," he says.

Among these attitudes is the widespread belief that jobs are something that should be guaranteed by the government. This is particularly true in the case of university education which is often automatically associated with guaranteed employment. Ebraheem pointed out that in the West employment is linked to supply and demand and most job opportunities are to be found in the private sector. "Young peo-



Emphasis on vocational training is necessary in view of the fact that 40 per cent of Kuwait's population is under 15.

ple in the West tend to select study programmes which they feel will eventually provide them with best job opportunities for their own abilities," he said. There is a lesson to be learnt there, he says. Outside the applied sciences, little thought is given in Kuwait to the selection of the programme of study.

Attitudes towards manual work will also have to change, he contended. "Working with one's hands has come to be looked down on in today's society and a public campaign has been launched to try to change this," said Ebraheem. He also backs efforts aimed at encouraging students to take up courses in engineering and technology as opposed to social science. "About 70 per cent of all students at Arab universities pursue studies in humanities while comparatively few show interest in science, engineering and medicine. We are trying to reverse that ratio at Kuwait University," he said.

More importance is being attached to computer studies

with plans to introduce a computer education programme in all high schools. Post-graduate degrees, mainly available in science subjects, also reflect the shift in focus away from social science and in favour of the technical field, Ebraheem said.

He questioned the wisdom of sticking to the classical academic programme at Kuwait University with its orthodox concept of faculties and departments. "I wonder now whether such a structure can really serve the development plan of this country," he said. But he pointed to the efforts to rethink the university set-up which may result in some fresh changes.

He favours cooperation with universities overseas and says: "By throwing open our doors to the educational ideas and solutions of other nations, we can all benefit and learn a great deal from each other." But he stressed that exchange programmes are bilateral in nature. "That means we want to learn from you, but you, in turn, must be willing to learn from us," said Ebraheem.

By Keith Wells

DAR AL Athar is living up to its reputation as a dynamo of cultural activity in Kuwait by organising a handicraft centre which will be based in the old Beit Al Badr, next door to the Sadu House on Arabian Gulf Street. The centre will be called Al Muhtarraf and will offer courses in ceramics, jewellery making, metalwork and water-colour painting. Al Muhtarraf will start operations in early March.

Beit Al Badr is a large rambling old house that was originally built in the period between 1837 and 1847. It was extensively re-built in 1937 and has recently been completely restored to its former glory. Al Muhtarraf will be located in the rooms surrounding Hosh Al Harem, the women's courtyard. It's a marvellous setting for a handicraft centre.

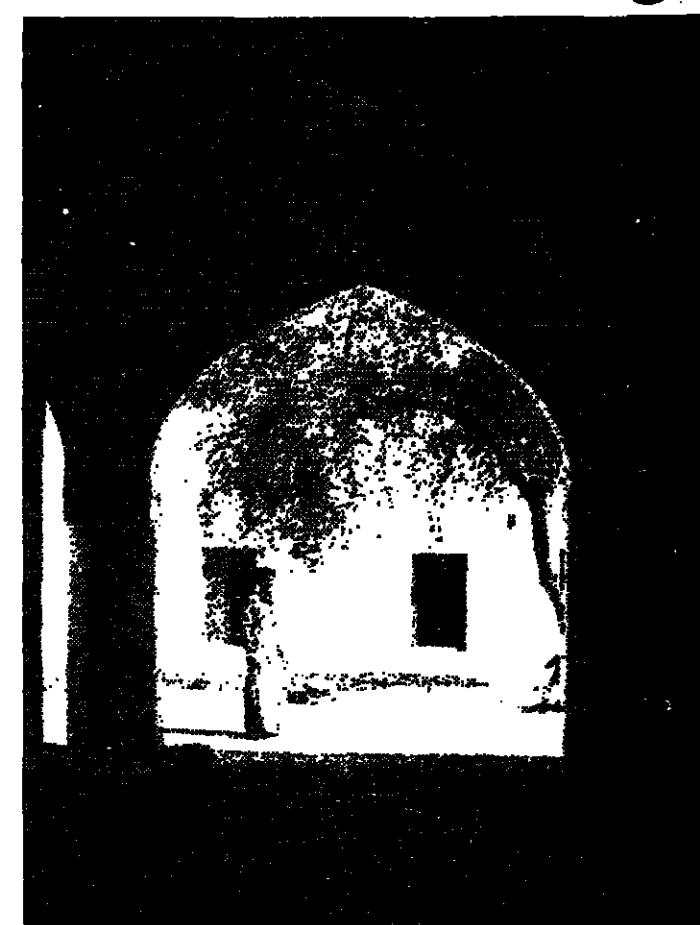
There are about fifteen rooms, although it is hard to be sure since there are lots of little nooks and crannies, hidden stairways leading up to quaint old sleeping galleries, lofts, hidey-holes and other architectural oddities to be explored. From the roof there is a lovely view of the Gulf and the National Museum next door.

There is even a well in the centre of the courtyard, shaded by a lovely old tree. The rooms have been carefully restored, the mangrove poles painted black against the golden rushes which are woven to form the ceilings. The walls are all whitewashed. Most of the rooms have niches along the walls where the original inhabitants would have kept ornaments or utensils.

The walls are very thick, so even in summer it would have been cool and shady inside and there are lots of ventilation shafts that operate like bagdads, or windtowers, to catch every cooling breeze and channel it down into the rooms below. All the doors and shutters have been painted rich brown. There are also a lot of intricately carved grilles for ventilation. Around two sides of the courtyard is a verandah-cum-cloister which adds to the cool and shady atmosphere of the place.

Al Muhtarraf will have its own kilns which will be placed where the old ovens used to be, and there is plenty of roof space for drying pottery in the heat of

Focus on the arts in a historic setting



Beit Al Badr: this rambling old house will be a handicrafts centre offering courses in ceramics, jewellery making, metalwork and water-colour painting

the sun.

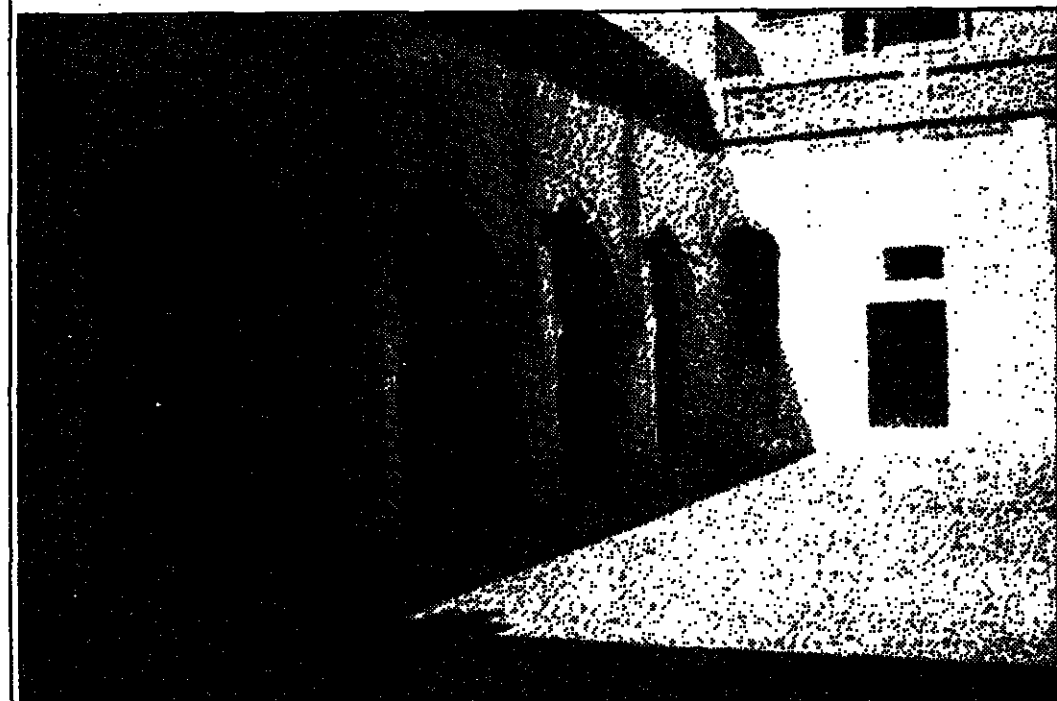
Abdul Kareem Al Ghabban is the coordinator of the project together with Susan Al Muawwa who is handling the administration. Besides set courses in the various crafts, students will also be allowed to use the facilities in order to follow their own projects.

There will be two types of ceramics classes: handbuilding and using an electric wheel. There will also be a special class for children to learn how to hand build objects in clay. The jewellery and metalwork classes will provide basic guidelines for anyone interested in making his own plates, rings or pendants. The watercolour classes will offer instruction in basic drawing as well as various water-colouring techniques.

Sponsored by Sheikh Hussa, the dynamic Director of Dar Al Athar Al Islamiya, Al Muhtarraf is sure to become a popular focus of activity for all those who are interested in handicrafts.

The courses will be taught by the following instructors: Abdul Kareem Al Ghabban, pottery and crafts; Mohammed Al Mufti and Susan Al Muawwa, ceramics; Sheikh Fawaz Al Sabah, advanced ceramics using the electric wheel. William Bartholomew, jewellery and Suleiman Mohammed Ali, metalwork.

Anyone who is interested in participating in one or more of these courses is requested to inquire from Dar Al Athar for further details. Telephone 243 5915.



Another view of Beit Al Badr which is sure to become a focus of cultural activity in Kuwait.

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The New Goans Overseas Association,
Kuwait

offer their congratulations on the
occasion
of Kuwait's
27th National Day

to His Highness
Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah

The Amir of Kuwait and
His Highness

Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem

Al Sabah

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister
and the people of Kuwait.

Safat Square: a special place

KUWAIT: Safat Square in Kuwait's business centre has a special place in the hearts of the old and new generations in the country due to its close association with the past history, of what is now an oil rich Arab Gulf state.

According to the abridged Kuwaiti encyclopaedia, the word Safat means the hard white land whose hardness is caused by geological factors. Safat was originally a cemetery before it was made into a caravan resting site, and a market centre selling dates, woods, herbs, cereals, animal fat, barley, sheep and camels and also the venue for official and popular celebrations.

The growing importance of the Safat Square, a customs post was established to levy taxes on imports.

Among the most important historic incidents in the Square was during the First World War when Britain imposed an economic blockade on Kuwait for exporting arms to Palestine, Syria, Iraq and the Hejaz (now Saudi Arabia), which were then under the Turkish empire that was at war with Britain. That situation prompted the late



Celebration of a national event with the old flag of Kuwait.

Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Salim Al Sabah to assign his son Abdulla to oversee exports from Kuwait.

It was also on this ground that the mobile cinema unit of the Kuwait Oil Company screened films for the public free of charge.

Safat was also the site of the popular celebration mounted by the Kuwaitis on February 25, 1950 to mark the assumption of Sheikh Abdulla Al Salim Al Sabah as Kuwait's 11th Amir. That date, was chosen to observe the independence of Kuwait in 1961 under the leadership of Sheikh Abdulla.

But it is only recently, in response to popular demand, that Safat Square started to receive attention regarding renovation and beautification.

Four years ago, the Municipality contracted a number of foreign companies to beautify and modernise Safat as the country's first public

square. The project is constructed on an area of 12,000 square metres out of which 3,500 square metres is cultivated with shrubs and flowers.

The KD 4,200,000 (about 15 million dollars) project also includes granite and coloured tiles area, a fountain and a round-cement memorial statue surrounded by a granite wall representing the old wall of the city and a 30-metre high tower depicting a ship's mast.

The Safat Square project also includes pedestrians paths in the form of tunnels under the raised roads junction, cafeterias and some handicraft shops and exhibition windows displaying Kuwaiti artists and sculptures and fine arts products.

The Square, in its new and renovated form, will be officially opened on February 25 when the nation celebrates the 27th anniversary of independence.

By Kathy Cuddihy

A FEW years ago it was all I could do to change a light bulb. Anything more complex received my undivided avoidance. I had heard the word 'thermostat,' for example, and no doubt passed our household model several times a day but, if left to my own devices, I would have frozen or fried before it occurred to me to make any adjustments to it. To my mind, 'technical' jobs belong in the realm of men. They invent/build/buy all those complicated gadgets, so they can darn well fix them when they break, wear out or malfunction.

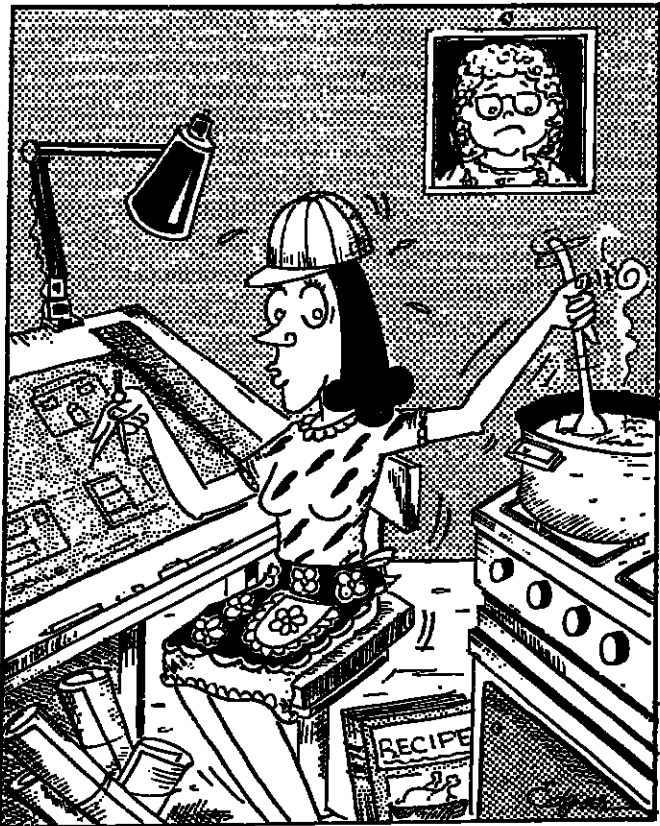
I am not totally without interest or ability when it comes to houses. It's just that my enthusiasm takes on a creative rather than a functional form. Interior design seems so much more appealing than trying to repair a faulty drain. As luck would have it, though, in my case the 2 have gone hand in hand.

To satisfy the frustrated decorator in me, my dear husband bought an old shell of a country cottage a few years ago and told me to decorate and design to my heart's content. What I didn't know at the time was that he was just being charitable... without having any great faith in my project. I, on the other hand, only saw the place as it would eventually look, never in its original state... which is just as well, considering its original state.

With great enthusiasm, I transferred my ideas onto paper and tried to convince our rather sceptical architect to make them a reality. Some of my creations were obviously a little too avant-garde for this country creature whose design theories hadn't quite made it into the 20th century yet.

Phase I, the renovation

From domestic engineer to construction engineer



of the old house, was a great success — a decorator's delight. Phase II, however, involved adding a large extension onto the original cottage. Now I was out of decoration and into construction... definitely not my field. In retrospect I shouldn't have felt intimidated: my limited knowledge probably exceeded that of the old farmer whom the architect hired to do the building! The quantity of stupidities built into that extension destroyed my faith in contractors forever — and that was only the faults I found immediately. The blunders which weren't instantly evident — like the floor that sloped and the sewage pipe that just buried itself somewhere in the field in-

stead of continuing into the septic tank — convinced me once and for all that no builder was ever going to put one over on me again.

So recently, when we decided to add yet another extension, I learned enough about construction so that I could at least sound as though I knew what I was talking about. I had already learned that whoever can bluff best has won half the battle.

This time I eliminated the architect and did my own design... and bravely weathered scathing male comments: "You can't build a house in that shape. Walls are supposed to meet at right angles." Or, "Why on earth are you so concerned with 'balance'? The house is so big now that

only overhead traffic will appreciate the symmetry."

To my surprise and the builder's astonishment, I coped with heating and insulation problems and quickly learned the rudiments of plumbing and electricity.

Needless to say, there were a few minor setbacks along the way. For instance, when I tried to research the economic feasibility of having a jacuzzi the bathroom salesman gave me a patronising smile and said, "Madam, if you can't afford the chauffeur, you really shouldn't be considering a Rolls Royce." Good grief! Why do men in the "trade" look down on questions asked by women?

Another confusion arose as a result of my trendy choice of lighting. Because they were the new low-voltage type, they required transformers. Because there were a lot of lights in one large room, they needed a lot of transformers. When the builder asked me if I had considered double-gang switches, I had to think quickly. Double-gang switches? The only type of switch I had ever heard of was the on/off variety.

"Perhaps triple-gang switches might be more suitable," came my shot-in-the-dark reply. When the builder acknowledged my decision with "Right you are, missus. I'll look into it right away," I knew that, if nothing else, I had mastered the game of bluff.

This phase of the cottage might be less than perfect, but the mistakes are my very own. Although the doors open in the wrong direction, at least all the floors are level....

Fakes are a lucrative business

By William Kazer

HONG KONG, (Reuters): From Rolex watches to Gucci bags, Ralph Lauren shirts to IBM computers, if the world can make it, Asia will fake it.

Tough new laws and more arrests have taken a real bite out of the lucrative trade in fake goods but law enforcers told Reuters correspondents in Asian capitals they still face an uphill battle trying to put counterfeiters out of business.

Taiwan, once the centre of counterfeit goods, has led the fight against counterfeiting, rewriting its copyright law over the past years.

"The government has cleaned up its act," said Jeffrey Harris, a private investigator in Taipei. "They've gone through a 180 degree turn on counterfeits."

Harris said about 80 per cent of the fake watches and parts sold worldwide were once made in Taiwan.

Touts But touts still grab tourists outside their hotels and lead them to dingy flats where a fake Rolex watch costs \$25 dollars compared with several thousand for the real thing. Hundreds of fake Rolex watches are packed into small boxes, ready to be whisked away at the first hint of a police raid.

In Hong Kong, high-fashion clothes are where the money is. "Fashionwear is our big problem," said customs official John Howard, Hong Kong top investigator of counterfeiting.

"There's good demand and high profit," he said. "There were 942 seizures of counterfeit goods as of the end of October compared with 1,174 in all of 1986 and only 353 in 1980."

Law enforcers say they have made a big breakthrough in fighting computer software counterfeiters with the first criminal conviction on

In various Asian capitals, law enforcers face an uphill battle trying to curb counterfeiting of high-quality goods and in spite of tough controls on copyright violations, Gucci bags, Rolex watches, IBM computers and even antique carvings are all available for a fraction of the price.



A Cartier watch made in Taiwan with a \$30 price tag. Taiwan, once the centre of counterfeit goods, has led the fight against counterfeiting.

copyright violations. "We think this is a major change," said a legal department official.

Copies of the best known computer software programmes — not to mention the computers themselves — are still readily available.

Sentence Indonesia, the world's leading exporter of pirated music, took a major step toward curbing its giant piracy industry when it passed legislation in September stiffening penalties for copyright violations.

The law raised the maximum

sentence for copyright pirates from three to seven years in jail and quadrupled the top fine to \$60,000 dollars.

Copyright protection was extended to foreign films, music, books, computer software, paintings, cultural performances and architectural designs. But bootleg music cassettes are still available at dozens of downtown shops.

Singapore's firm action against imitations has shut the once thriving market in fakes in popular Chinatown and the Change Alley shopping areas. Pirated video and audio cas-

sette tapes have almost disappeared since a tough copyright act was enacted last January. The law imposed fines of up to \$50,000 for each illegally copied article and up to five years imprisonment for people offering them for sale.

You can still buy "Gucci" wallets or "Lacoste" T-shirts from back-street peddlers for a fraction of the cost of the real thing.

In Bangkok, Boonma Tejavanya, a lawyer whose firm specialises in copyright, patent and trademark infringement cases for big multinational companies, said there was a shift in counterfeit production to Thailand from Taiwan and Hong Kong where labour was costlier and penalties tougher.

The top fine for counterfeiting goods other than potentially harmful products such as pharmaceuticals and food is 6,000 baht (\$ 240) and three years in jail, though both fines and jail terms are usually much lighter.

Virtually any brand of any consumer article can be found. "We can get you anything," said one vendor. "If you want a Porsche I can find someone to make you one in fibreglass."

Pirated cassettes costing between one and two dollars are easily found by cocking an ear and following the rhythm — sidewalk dealers set up massive speakers hammering out the latest sounds behind their stalls with the latest tapes.

In India, designer fakes are growing in popularity. "If you want a pair of jeans, the trader will ask 'genuine or fake?' If you opt for the fake, the next question is 'cheap fake or quality fake?' and finally, he will ask: 'What sort of label would you like — Levi, Lee or Wrangler?'"

The best come from Singapore and Hong Kong, the poor quality from Bangladesh and Nepal, or from sweatshops in Calcutta's dock area.

with the Joneses."

Leasarte has at the moment 150 masterpieces in its hire catalogue.

The service has its headquarters in a deconsecrated church. "It's just like walking into an art supermarket," says the man who had the idea, Signor Gilberto Algranti.

"Our clientele — the customers we aim at — are rich people who want to make a great impression. Only for a few days, and companies."

Rent-a-masterpiece scheme for art snobs

By Leslie Childe

STATUS-minded Italians wanting to impress their guests can now "rent a masterpiece."

Van Dyck and Veronese are among the masters whose paintings are for hire — if you can afford to pay £37,000 a month for the privilege.

Is it possible to do it a little more cheaply? Yes, you can hire by the week, if you so prefer. One of the masterpieces people in Milan are hiring for their sit-

ting rooms is valued at nearly £60,000.

The service has been started by a company called "Leasarte". Most of its capital is owned by one of Italy's top banks — the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro.

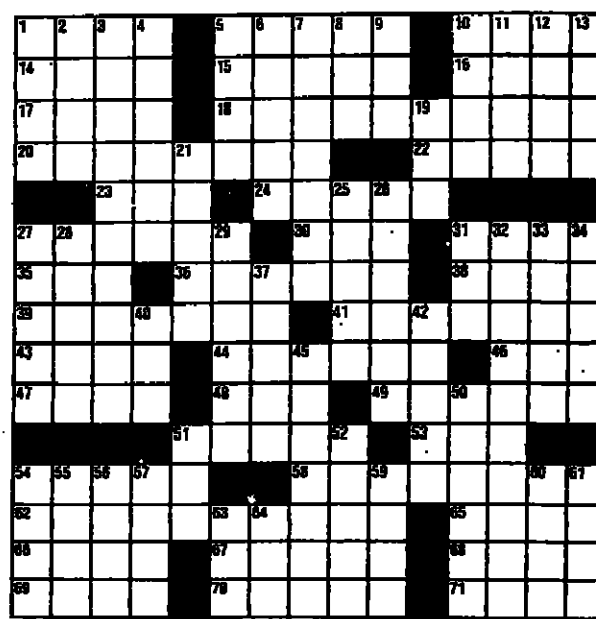
The rest has been invested by a leading art dealer in the north

Italian industrial city.

"It's ideal for people who want to put on a big show for a party or some other kind of social occasion," an official said.

"It's great for keeping up with the Rossis." The surname, Rossi, is as common in Italy as "Jones" in Britain, where one "keeps up

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Squared away
- 5 Weasellike mammal
- 10 King of Huns
- 14 Lover's longing
- 15 Caribbean resort island
- 16 "The — in Winter"
- 17 Latin verb for February 14
- 18 Admonition to slow chess player?
- 20 Clergyman
- 22 Cautions
- 23 Before, in poetry
- 24 Sum
- 27 Flew, in a way
- 30 Nothing whatever
- 31 Identifying mark
- 35 Lover's quarrel, perhaps
- 36 Adequate
- 38 Hilo dance
- 39 Scrutiny
- 41 Inherited
- 43 Ostich relatives
- 44 Hold together
- 46 Follows bee
- 47 Sensible
- 48 Eggs, in ancient Rome
- 49 Boxer's attendant
- 51 Motionless
- 53 Cupid
- 54 Sprightly
- 58 Intentional

DOWN

- 1 Talk show pioneer
- 2 Highest point
- 3 Parting words from Gary Hart?
- 4 Leave in the lurch
- 5 Wise man
- 6 Council of —
- 7 Bested or worsted
- 8 Lawyers' org.
- 9 Highland headwear
- 10 Part of TAE
- 11 Set of rows
- 12 Fish-eating bird
- 13 Caravansaries
- 19 Nighttime predator
- 21 Oboes, clarinets, etc
- 25 Slight coloration
- 26 Makes garment adjustments

ACROSS

- 27 Funny stories
- 28 Plant disease
- 29 Church elder
- 31 "— whom I love..."
- 32 Snub tennis star to save money?
- 33 Visitor from Mars
- 34 Revved up
- 37 It's stuck on ham
- 40 Avail
- 42 "— say more?"
- 45 Firm, unbroken soil
- 50 He was a "Yankee Doodle Dandy"
- 51 Comparative ending
- 52 Young persons
- 54 Hair style
- 55 Equipment
- 56 — fix
- 57 "I love not man the..."
- 58 Snick-or—
- 60 Being
- 61 Bambi's ilk
- 63 Tot up
- 64 Be situated

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AKJ542 ♠ 93 ♠ 84 ♠ 953
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
3 ♠ Dbl Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KQ54 ♠ K9 ♠ 87 ♠ KQJ73
Partner opens the bidding with three spades. What action do you take?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

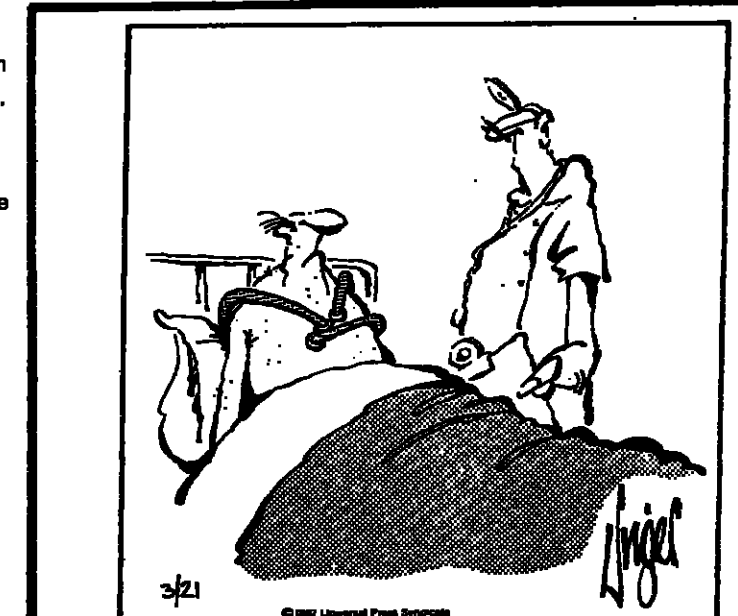
ANAB ROCS SUSHI
MERE ENOL OFTEN
PAIR DELI FOALS
STAGEFRIGHT GMT
SOL CHEESE
ALS NAP TENTHS
RATA GUM DERRAIL
APALE NAT DANTE
BAGELS PAL DDAY
ZEPPOS MEW SRS
CHARTIA SAG
ESO STAGESTRUCK
DRACO TARD ERLE
DACHA UPIN EDEN
ASHEN SEES DUOS

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K ♠ AK943 ♠ 8 ♠ QJ7642
Partner opens the bidding with three spades. What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J63 ♠ K105 ♠ QJ3 ♠ AKQ8
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 93 ♠ AK102 ♠ Q8762 ♠ 52
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ QJ5 ♠ 7 ♠ QJ83 ♠ QJ762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

Today you will be able to make good progress. You should not take too much for granted. Try to be a little more precise. Be lenient.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Do not take anything for granted just now. Nor should you jump to conclusions, await developments. Try to avoid taking on any new commitments for the moment. Be more self-sufficient.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You must not allow work to eat into your private life. You will be better able to deal with the day's problems. Do not try to do more than you have time and energy for. Be generous.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)

The Moon's more favourable influence will help you to come to terms with yourself. You will tire more easily and should conserve your energies. Do your utmost to avoid getting into an argument. Be selective.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will be at your best and should not drive yourself too hard. Something you had feared would happen will not. Nor however will something happen that you hoped would. Be impartial.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You will not feel quite as well as you would wish to. Try to have a little more confidence in yourself. Seek to effect a better balance between reason and emotion. Be loyal.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You should not try to be all things to all men. Have the courage of your convictions. If you are learning a language or anything else you must persevere. Be moderate.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You should try to spend a little time on your own. Make sure you do not turn right without looking what is coming towards you. Do not place reliance on chance or trust to luck. Be sincere.



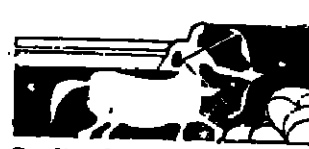
Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will be better able to face up to your responsibilities. Make sure you do not get into an argument. Take much better care of your health. Be provident.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will be able to make good progress with a matter which you consider to be important. You will be able to rely on your friends. Make sure you do not have too many late nights in succession. Be objective.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You should not admit defeat too quickly. You should try to have a little more faith in yourself and confidence in others. Make sure you do not neglect an infection however slight. Be affectionate.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You should not expect everything to turn out just as you would like it to be. You should not place too much trust in rumours. Keep an open mind towards new developments. Be moderate.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Economists review functions of research departments in Kuwait banks

Overall strategic planning process brings new image

By M.C. Bose

RESEARCH was once considered a relatively less important area in banking business. This trend has undergone a change in recent years, especially after the beginning of the 1980s. Today, banks all over the world place due emphasis on research and a clear indication of this is banks' increased spending on hiring researchers.

Research in banks encompasses now a wide variety of areas such as bank marketing, product and services development, human resources management, economic and financial analysis etc. In the overall strategic planning, a vital tool used by banks for planning profit and business development, bankers rely heavily on research contents. Note that like manufacturing industries, banks today place great importance in market research and product surveys before launching a new product or service.

The Kuwaiti banks too caught up with banks abroad in carrying out research, though at a modest scale.

Steps
In recent years, most Kuwaiti banks have initiated steps towards hiring research personnel and setting up research departments. At one time, the primary task of the researchers was to prepare the annual reports of the banks and to bring out periodic publications, mostly statistical in nature.

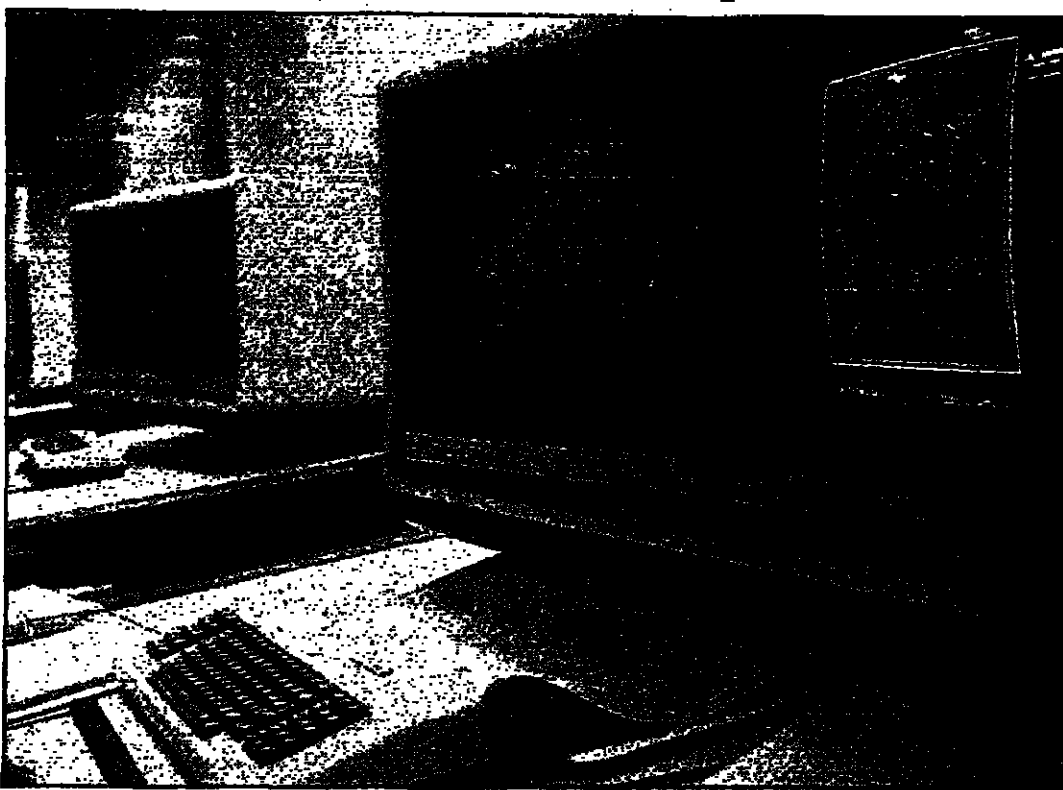
In contrast, researchers today are called upon to give opinions on a variety of issues which have direct or indirect bearing on banking business.

Researchers are now seen as the "think-tank" for the banks. Dr Abdullah M. S. Ghanem, director of the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS) and Dr Mohammad Al Mahmeed head of the Research Unit told the Arab Times at a macro-level, the Institute of Banking Studies is at the forefront in conducting research relevant to banking industry. Its Research Unit (set up in 1982) is actively involved in applied research, relating to various aspects of banking and finance.

Relevance
Here one must make a distinction between the type of research done in banks and at the IBS. In so far as banks are concerned, their researches mostly address to issues of particular relevance to the individual banks. In the process, they lose sight of the aggregative view. Further, researchers in banks are centred on collation of information and their dissemination.

"The IBS is only trying to fill in this vacuum by conducting research using macro-level data bearing in mind the overall interest of the banking industry. The findings of such studies are made available in the form of publications," they added.

At the IBS, research activity focussed on three specific areas. Firstly, it brings out three key



A state-of-the-art computer facility at a Kuwait bank.

publications such as, Bank Operating Statistics, Financial Index for Kuwait, Stock Exchange Listed Companies and GCC Banks: Financial Report.

The Bank Operating Statistics is published annually. It is intended to be a comprehensive reference guide and a convenient source of statistics relating to the growth and development and performance of the Kuwaiti banks.

The Financial Index (an annual publication) is a reference book on the performance, growth and development of the domestic companies and the corporate sector in Kuwait.

The GCC Banks: Financial Report, provides vital information regarding banking business in the Arab Gulf Co-operation Council states.

Studies
A second area of emphasis is applied research. Studies covering the areas of marketing, business, development economic forecasting, monetary and fiscal policies, organisation and management, human resources development on banking laws and regulations are conducted from time to time.

While selecting such studies, due attention is paid on the topicality of the issues. The overall aim of these studies is to suggest new ideas to banks on the various issues cited above.

They said that the third area of interest is in building up a data base for the banking industry in Kuwait. Efforts are underway in collecting and analysing of data on a variety of aspects relevant to banks. "Eventually our aim is to provide access to banks to our data bank through a net work of computer terminals."

They added: "At the IBS, we are formulating a three-year plan in consultation with banks to set the research priority. The new

plan will be operative from the new academic year (ie, from June 1988). All research projects will be carried out within the framework of this three-year plan."

When asked about the resources, they said that steps have been taken to acquire the required resources. Firstly, "we have acquired all the hardware including the main-frame computer with multiple terminals and advanced personal computer system. We have also acquired sophisticated software package for data entry, analysis and interpretation. We are also in the process of acquiring artificial intelligence system. Also, we have a well equipped library with a huge collection of books and periodicals, including a good team of academicians and researchers with practical banking knowledge."

Dr Farouk Shalaby, manager, Research Department of Kuwait Central Bank has said research departments in central banks play an important role represented in monitoring and studying the domestic and international economic financial and monetary developments, particularly those affecting the course of the domestic economy, its growth and stability.

Every central bank seeks to develop its research department as a centre of expertise in the economic analysis and general data, particularly those relating to domestic monetary and fiscal policy.

"This means that research department is to be entrusted with the preparation of economic studies and reports related to formulating the central bank's monetary policy. Further, it manages to prepare the relevant statistical data or make it available either from the bank itself or from other sources," he added.

Dr Shalaby said that the research department is an

integral part of the central bank which entails that it should work in harmony with other departments in the bank in general and other sections, if any, of these departments in particular.

Responsibility
The nature of work performed by research department, as other departments in the central bank is characterised by general responsibility which requires objectivity, accuracy and comprehensiveness on the part of research department. Being the bank of the government, the central bank provides it with many monetary and financial reports and analyses of issues relating to decision making, and it also guides the banking system toward general objectives to be realised by that system."

To this end, he added the research department must monitor the domestic economic events and should not keep itself within a theoretical framework of unrealistic researches (known as the ivory tower economics).

Dr Shalaby said many factors should be taken into consideration, particularly the human resources which will make it difficult for the department to achieve its objectives due to a deficiency or lack in these potentials or resources. This will stimulate the department to concentrate on raising the standards of its researchers by making them aware of the most up-to-date methods of scientific research and gaining experience from other specialists in the bank and "practical" experience outside.

Activities
Thus, it is the department's responsibility to identify the fields in which its researchers are outstanding and consequently entrust them with appropriate researches.

Various other activities carried out periodically or seasonally by the department of

economic researches in central banks, such as the issue of economic bulletins and reports at certain time of the year, overburden the researchers, a fact that necessitates the pre-arrangement of these activities, to identify their priorities on the one hand, and to organise their performance throughout the year, on the other.

These activities are summarised as follows: (a) Periodical activities, such as the preparation of annual economic reports, monthly and quarterly monetary and statistical bulletins (in both Arabic and English), data on balance of payments, providing different agencies with these data and answering any relevant inquiries. (b) Various economic studies and reports. (c) Co-ordinating and preparing different data in conjunction with other agencies like the IMF. (d) Representing the central bank or the department itself in any technical committees or meetings held by the GCC central banks or by the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) for example.

The clear perspective of the department framework of activities, in the light of the above considerations, will not only determine the role of the department, but also it will lead to the creation of a co-operative group of researchers, each member carries out its function within the general framework of the whole group.

Objectives
The functions of the economic research departments in central banks are determined in the light of the objectives of these banks represented in supervision activity, regulating the monetary position with the aim of initiating harmony between economic and monetary objectives.

Despite the absence of specific rules and regulations to be abided by all central banks in achieving their objectives, there are common functions aiming at the realisation of adequate level of monetary stability and regulating domestic liquidity by the central bank which will thereby ensure regular growth in productive sectors.

Dr Shalaby said to perform its role in the preparation of studies and policy indicators necessary for monitoring and developing the monetary policy instrument, the research department follows-up periodically, some local and international indicators such as price indices, interest rates, interbank money market, liquidity in the banking and financial sector, the domestic government expenditure, trade balance, balance of payments and fluctuations in exchange rates.

Development in international interest rates and the exchange rates of major currencies receive a remarkable attention by the research departments in central banks. It is also important to note the role of credit facilities which are under constant supervision by these central banks so as to guarantee the existence of

local credit sufficient to finance the productive activities in non-oil sectors and to curb facilities granted for speculation purposes due to their domestic inflation pressures or shortage in domestic liquidity when they are used for foreign speculations.

Attention
The research department in the Central Bank of Kuwait gives, for example, due attention to the following:

● Studies on the most important domestic, economic, financial and monetary developments and events. Therefore, these studies are not limited to the banking and financial sector only, but they also include the discussion of public finance, prices, foreign trade, balance of payments and oil economies.

● Studies aiming at improving the estimated items of the Kuwaiti balance of payments. ● Researchers monitoring the most important developments and problems of the banking and financial system in Kuwait.

● Observing and monitoring the international economic developments, particularly the monetary (such as interest rates) to study their effects on some local variables.

● Studies on major indices in Kuwait (import prices — volume of imports — wholesale prices — cost of living) in conjunction with other agencies outside the bank to the aim of improving these indices and avoiding their deficiencies.

The bank also monitoring and analysing several policy indicators such as the domestic liquidity and interest rates.

Statistical data and information

The economic monetary statistical data and information that are available to the central banks enable them to carry out studies on the national economy that would help in drawing up a sound monetary policy at present and its forecasts in the future. This means that the statistical activities of the research (& statistics) department should not be confined only to entering data in its relevant tables or statements in routine work, far from improvement, development or pre-planning which aim at the gradual shift from the descriptive economic analysis to the precise and comprehensive quantitative analysis.

In addition to the data available in the bank, the research department must seek for further data outside the bank, particularly in other official institutions which issue data related to the bank's work. This difficult job is necessary for the preparation of a data base on economic, financial and monetary matters, characterised by periodic accurate updated and homogeneous information in a form that makes this data easy to be used in a quantitative analysis of the aspects of domestic economy and in forecasting the most important economic and monetary variables," he added.

(To be continued)

World Business Summary

Texaco to pay government \$1.25 billion in settlement

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., Feb 23, (Reuters): Texaco Inc said today it had agreed to pay the government \$1.25 billion, plus interest, to settle federal charges that it violated oil price controls between 1973 and 1981. The Energy Department's claims against the company totalled more than \$2.1 billion. Texaco said the agreement settles its dispute with the department stemming from the company's crude oil and refined product pricing when federal oil price controls were in place. Texaco, the third-largest US oil company, said the settlement would have no impact on its current earnings because the payment would be covered by reserves included in its bankruptcy plan. Texaco is currently in bankruptcy proceedings as a result of its drawn-out battle with Pennzoil company. Late last year Texaco agreed to pay Pennzoil \$3 billion in settlement plan now under shareholder consideration.

Texaco said it would pay the Energy Department \$400 million shortly after the agreement was finalised. It said the balance would be paid in five installments, with the first payment of \$190 million due 18 months after the agreement becomes effective.

Turkey handling foreign debt well, says Rockefeller

ISTANBUL, Feb 23, (Reuters): US Banker David Rockefeller praised Turkey's handling of its foreign debt today but said it should hold down new borrowings this year. "I don't see any cause for concern," Rockefeller told reporters during a visit to Istanbul's Stock Exchange in answer to questions about Turkey's estimated \$35 billion debt. "The leadership of the Turkish government understands the problem very well and manages it very well." But he said the Turkish economy was "a little overheated" and the government should borrow less this year to maintain its credit-worthiness and bring down a 60 per cent inflation rate. Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem told a seminar on Monday that Turkey would pay \$7.27 billion in principal and interest on its debts in 1988, the left-leaning Cumhuriyet newspaper said. Turkey paid out \$4.44 billion in the first 10 months of 1987, but the Central Bank has not revealed how much of this was raised through fresh borrowing. Rockefeller, who headed Chase Manhattan Bank from 1969 to 1980 and now chairs its international advisory committee, met Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and other officials in Ankara on Monday at the start of a European tour. Asked in Ankara how banks would react if Turkey sought to restructure or reschedule its debts, he said: "If they needed to, I am sure the creditor banks would be prepared to do so."

He added: "I have no reason to believe they intend to ask for a rescheduling." Ozal, who has taken pride in Turkey's improved credit-worthiness this decade, said in December he would not try to reschedule the foreign debts. "It is a well-known fact that since 1979 or so Turkey has in a very disciplined way met its obligations," Chase executive vice-president Donald Boudreau said.

Samba profits surge

BRITAIN, Feb 23, (Reuters): Riyadh-based Saudi Arabian Bank (Samba), the kingdom's largest joint venture bank, reported today its first increase in net profit for five years. It said net profit for 1987 rose 12 per cent to 90.1 million riyals (\$24 million) from 80.7 million riyals (\$21.5 million) in 1986. "I think it's the start of a trend where banks, after coming through a difficult period, are starting to look better," managing director Shaikat Aziz told Reuters. Bank profits in the kingdom have been affected by bad loans to the private sector since government oil revenues began declining in the early 1980s. Samba, owned 40 per cent by Citibank Na, is the third of the kingdom's nine joint venture banks to release 1987 results. Arab National Bank's net profits rose 32 per cent to 201.2 million riyals (\$54 million), while net profits at Al Bank Al Saudi Al Fransi fell 47 per cent to 64.4 million riyals (\$17 million).

Samba reduced its provisions for bad and doubtful debts to 166.8 million riyals (\$44.5 million) from 180.3 million riyals (\$48 million) in 1986. "We have been taking substantial provisions for several years and now think we can start reducing them," Aziz said.

The bank proposed a dividend of 63.0 million riyals (\$17 million), down from 70.0 million riyals (\$19 million) in 1986. It said deposits at the end of 1987 were up 24 pct at 15.36 billion riyals (\$4.1 billion).

Samba was given permission by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority earlier this month to double its capital to 600 million riyals (\$160 million) by taking funds from reserves.

US durable goods orders fall

WASHINGTON, Feb 23, (Reuters): Orders received by US manufacturers of durable goods fell 2.8 per cent in January, wiping out part of a 4.1 per cent rise in December, the government said today. Excluding the volatile category of defence equipment, orders fell 2.1 per cent last month after jumping 5.3 per cent in December, the Commerce Department said. Economists had expected a decline in overall orders of about three per cent, largely in reaction to the sharp rise in December, which was caused by a big aircraft order.

The rise in December was originally reported as 6.7 per cent but had already been scaled back to 4.9 per cent when the government released statistics on total factory orders in December. Economists were not alarmed by the decline in January, saying it was to be expected after the surge in December. If the results of the two months are averaged, orders show a modest increase, and economists said manufacturers of durable goods should continue to benefit from the current export boom spurred by the cheap dollar. The Reagan administration is counting on strength in the manufacturing sector to offset a weakening in US consumer demand and keep the overall economy expanding at least until November's general election. The 2.8 per cent January decline in durable goods orders, to a seasonally adjusted \$112.23 billion, was the first monthly drop since a 0.1 per cent dip in November. It was the largest decline since January 1987, when orders fell 8.0 per cent. Durable goods are expensive items such as cars, refrigerators and machine tools designed to last at least two years.

The pattern of orders was mixed in January. New orders for transportation equipment and primary metals were down sharply, while orders for electrical and non-electrical machinery rose, the Commerce Department said.

Abu Ghazaleh to chair Aspi meeting

THE board of the Arab Society for the Protection of Industrial Property (Aspi) will hold its meeting, chaired by the President of Aspi Talal Abu Ghazaleh, in Cairo, Egypt, on Feb 25, it was announced in Kuwait yesterday. According to an Aspi press release, simultaneously all the Aspi members from the Arab countries will hold a general assembly. The two meetings, hosted by Aspi vice-president Mrs Hoda Abdel Hadi, will discuss Aspi accomplishments on both Arab and international spheres in its first year of establishment and the work plan. Aspi was recently accepted as a member of World Intellectual Property Organisation (Wipo) in Geneva. The president of Aspi has also received a written confirmation from the Secretary-General of the International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property (Aippi) in Zurich that procedures for admitting Aspi to Aippi are now complete and this will be decided officially during the coming meetings of the general assembly of Aippi in Sydney, Australia in April. The agenda of the board and general assembly meetings includes a number of issues related to the development of Aspi performance, one of them is holding the first international Arab conference of industrial property in Bahrain from December 3-5, 1988, in support of local Arab associations and the participation of Aspi in international specialised conferences, training programmes for Arab professionals, and a number of other administrative items.

Dutch auditors to monitor Indonesia's oil output

JAKARTA, Feb 23, (UPI): A team of Dutch auditors has started to monitor Indonesia's crude oil output under an agreement reached with Opec, authorities said today.

A five-member team from the Dutch company Klynveld Kraayenhoff (KKC) began its work yesterday, as mandated by the last meeting of the Opec.

Members of the 13-nation organisation, including Indonesia, have agreed to re-institute, as soon as practicable, the system of control on production by using an external auditor.

Sudarno Martosewojo, director-general of oil and gas for Indonesia's Energy Ministry, said the Dutch team, which will be in Indonesia for one week, will split into two groups. One will monitor production at the large Dumai Oil Field in Sumatra, while the other will inspect the Arjuna Oil Field off Java, as well as an export terminal and a refinery.

The auditors will inspect written records of the state oil company Pertamina, and its foreign production-sharing contractors.

Other Opec member countries being visited by auditors this week include Nigeria, Gabon, Venezuela and Ecuador.

Opec has decided to limit its gross production to 15.06 million barrels of crude per day for the first half of 1988. Indonesia's quota is 1.13 million barrels per day.

Central bank likely to push interest rates lower

Fed chief to outline US monetary goals

WASHINGTON, Feb 23, (AP): Many economists believe the Federal Reserve is standing ready to push interest rates lower — as it did after the October stock market crash — if the US economy shows additional signs of weakness.

Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan plans to reveal the central bank's monetary goals at a hearing today before the House Banking Committee.

He is not expected to produce any surprises, but the hearing nonetheless will be watched closely by world financial markets because it will be Greenspan's first appearance to address monetary strategy since becoming chairman last September.

Economists reason that as

long as the dollar remains stable and inflation stays under control, the central bank will lean toward a looser credit policy, especially in an election year.

Many analysts believe the Federal Reserve loosened credit conditions slightly in January, a change that has driven mortgage and other rates lower in recent weeks.

"The Fed doesn't want to take the risk of easing further and it certainly doesn't want to tighten right now," said Tom Megan, an economist with Evans Economics, a Washington consulting firm.

The goal of the central bank is to supply enough money to keep the economy growing at a healthy rate while guarding against

rekindling inflation.

In performing its tasks, the Federal Reserve establishes growth targets for the various measures of the money supply. Greenspan will reveal today what those targets are for 1988.

The central bank has come under recent criticism from the administration of President Ronald Reagan over its handling of money growth.

Policies
The President's Council of Economic Advisers issued a report on Friday which said tight Fed money policies were partly responsible for triggering the Oct 19 stock market crash.

Greenspan, less than a month after succeeding Paul Volcker,

led the central bank to increase its discount rate from 5.5 per cent to 6 per cent on Sept 4. The action, which raised the rate the Federal Reserve charges to make bank loans, occurred as the value of the dollar was falling sharply and causing fears of higher domestic inflation.

Change

After the record fall in the stock market on Oct 19, the Federal Reserve reversed course and pledged to pump as much money as was needed into the economy to cushion the effects from the sudden loss of stock wealth.

The change in course sent interest rates lower, but rates began to rise again in December

as the Fed drained money from the banking system in order to guard against inflation.

Beryl Sprinkel, the president's chief economic adviser, and other Reagan administration officials contended that the central bank was underestimating the risks of a recession.

In January, the Fed sent signals that it was again loosening credit conditions. Sprinkel last week said he was satisfied with Federal Reserve policy moves in recent weeks.

Many economists believe that despite those kind words, the administration stands ready to prod the Federal Reserve to ease further if the economy slows more than expected in the early part of 1988.

World oil prices seen falling as output rises

TOKYO, Feb 23, (Reuters): Opec may soon lose its fight to stabilise oil prices at \$18 a barrel due to rising oil output and the end of the winter demand season in the northern hemisphere, oil industry sources said today.

"World oil prices, which for most of this year have struggled to keep within just two dollars for the target set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, look likely to relinquish another dollar, they said."

They said Opec output, estimated by Reuters at 16.7 million barrels per day in January, may hit 18 million this month while production from non-Opec countries such as Norway is also increasing.

Oil producers such as Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Iran have built up large stocks of crude, and company stocks in Europe and Japan are higher than expected following unusually warm winters, oil traders said.

"The winter stockdraw worldwide has not been as large as expected," said one Japanese trader.

"On top of this, there's plenty of oil on the free market. Inventories must be getting higher," said an international oil trader.

"I think the market is going to collapse."

"If there is no news to support the market, I expect oil prices will fall another 50 cents to a dollar," the Japanese trader said.

"I think it cannot be helped that producing countries will sell at market-related prices (discounts) since they have such large volumes in storage."

Japan has already started buying most of its crude at cheaper free market-related prices to avoid paying high official Opec prices, oil industry sources said.

Opec producers Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar are selling oil to Japan using market formulas which currently cut some \$2.50 a barrel off official prices, they said.

Of the Opec producers in the Middle East, only Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi still refuse to give discounts to Japanese buyers, the sources said, adding Saudi

Arabia's Japanese long-term contract buyers have decided to reduce purchases by 80 per cent in March.

"The East isn't buying Saudi oil so there must be a hell of a lot going West," said the international oil trader.

He said there were also large volumes of Iraqi and Iranian crude for sale in the Mediterranean and Northwest Europe, "but we don't see a lot of buyers in the market."

There are growing signs that Opec ministers are concerned by the group's failure to maintain discipline within its ranks and achieve the \$18 price target set in December 1986, oil industry sources said.

International Bond Highlights

London — Toyota Motor Co. a unit of Toyota Motor Co Ltd, is issuing a 200 mln dir Eurobond due March 29, 1991 paying eight pct and priced at 101.35 pct, lead manager Merrill Lynch capital markets said. (RTYH 1050)

London — Eurofima is issuing a 125 mln ECU Eurobond due March 24, 1995, paying 7 5/8 pct and priced at 101-3/4 pct, Deutsche Bank Capital Markets Ltd said as lead manager. (RTUU 1510)

Frankfurt — Dresdner Finance BV is issuing a 150 mln Canadian dir Eurobond with a coupon of 9-3/8 pct, priced at 101 3/4, for five years, lead manager Dresdner Bank said. (RTYP 1056)

London — Fiat Finance and Trading Ltd, a unit of Fiat SPA, is issuing a 75 mln Canadian dir Eurobond due March 22, 1991 paying 9-1/2 pct and priced at 101-1/4 pct, lead manager Banque Paribas said. (RTTO 1355)

Zurich — Japan's Asahi Denka Kogyo is issuing 65 mln Swiss francs in five-year convertible note with an indicated coupon of 1-1/8 pct, lead manager Swiss Bank Corp said. (RTXJ 0950)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 8-5/8 3/8	8-13/16 11/16	9-1/4 3/16
FFT 3.35/45	3.25/35	3.30/40
PAR 7-1/16 3/16	7-5/16 7/16	7-9/16 11/16
ZUR 1/8 3/8	1-3/8 1-5/8	1-5/8 1-7/8
BRX 5.35	6-3/16 5/16	6-3/16 5/16
ROM 10 10-1/2	10-3/4 11-1/4	10-7/8 11-3/8
AMS 4-1/8 4-1/4	4-0/0 4-1/8	4-0/0 4-1/8
TOK 3.2500 3125	3.8125 8750	3.7500 8125
ECU 6.00 6.25	6.18 6.31	6.37 6.50

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday:

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	5-5/16	5-11/16
3 months	5-1/8	5-9/16
6 months	5-1/16	5-9/16
1 year	5-1/8	5-9/16

BOMBAY

PR.	CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDA	64.50	64	65	NICO	515	515	516
ACC	151	153	151	GRASIM	86	87	87	50	435	435	440
ASIA PAINT	145	145	148.75	GSFC	99	99	99	OKAY	20	20	20
BAJAJ AUTO	385	385	392.50	HIND LEVER	67.50	66	67	PEICO	27	26.50	27
BAR. RAYON	147.50	150	152.50	HINDALCO	120	120	120.50	PFIZER	69	68	69
BON. DYING	123.50	124.50	125.50	HINDCOCCA	81.25	77.50	78.25	PRE. AUTO	26	26.50	26
BR. BOND	77	77	79	HINDMOTR	19.50	19.50	19.75	RAYMOND	46.50	46	47
BSE INDEX	426.39	426.39	406.36	IND ORG	18	18	18	RELIANCE	89	86	87
CENTURYSPG	655	660	657.50	INDRAYON	48.50	48	49	SIEMENS	67	67	68.50
COLGATE	191.25	191.25	191.25	INDROL	172.50	175	172.50	SPIC	31.50	31	31
DEPATRAT	30	30	30.50	ITC	32	31.50	32	STOWILLS	230	230	240
EI. HOTEL	43	42	43	JISYTH	50	49.50	50.50	TATA PHR	178.75	177.50	177.50
ESKAYEF	195	193.75	195	L AND T	78	78.50	77.50	TATACHEN	63.50	62.50	63
ESSAR	20	19	18	MAHINDRA	52	53	54.25	TELCO	347.50	347.50	357.50
GAR. POLY	78	77	80	MASTERSHR	9	9	9.28	TISCO	582.50	582.50	592.50
GE. SHIP	24	23.85	24	MATHER PL	100	100	102.50	VOLTA	262.50	260	262.50

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AEG	217.0	216.3
ALLIANZ VR	1374.0	1368.0
BADENWERK	176.0	178.0
BAF	261.8	259.5
BAYER	261.0	260.5
BAYER NYF	339.0	336.5
BAYER VER	334.0	335.0
BBC	286.1	285.0
BHF	317.0	316.0
BMW	533.0	530.0
CHIEF-VER	0	120.0
COMERZB	222.0	219.7
CONTI GUM	218.0	216.4
DALMER BEN	673.0	672.5
DEUTSC BK	424.5	423.0
DLW	309.0	306.0
DRESNER B	242.0	240.0
DT BARCOF	154.5	154.5
FALZ INDEX	449.83	445.07
GOLD-SHED	231.8	237.0
GUTHOFF	0	0
HARPER	387.0	382.0
HOECHST AG	254.5	253.4
HOESCH	102.5	100.0
KORTEN	174.5	168.0
KAL SALZ	128.0	128.8
KARSTADT	410.1	404.8
KAUFHOFF	369.0	366.0
KLOECK M	88.5	92.0
KLOECK W	0	67.5
LINDE	569.0	572.0
LUFTHANSA	141.5	140.5
MAN	161.0	158.0
MANHESMAN	123.0	122.0
MERCEDES	530.5	533.0
METALLGES	216.0	214.0
NORDOFF PF	537.5	539.0
NORSK NYD	47.50	46.80
PHILIP KOM	643.0	634.0
PORSCHE	463.0	472.5
PREUSSAG	124.0	122.5
PMA	203.5	203.5
RHEIN P	218.3	218.3
RHEIN P	213.3	213.5
RHEINMETAL	255.0	260.0
SALAMANDER	262.0	260.0
SCHERING	440.0	441.0
SEL	330.5	334.5
SIEMENS	388.5	389.0
THYSEN	125.8	120.5
VARTA	245.0	250.5
VEBA	252.8	252.0
VEW	163.2	163.5
VOLKSHAGEN	241.5	242.7

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
C H TUNNEL	13.90	13.80
CHUNG K	6.40	6.50
CHINA GAS	15.50	15.60
CHINA L-P	18.00	18.40
CHINA MTR	16.30	16.30
COSMO PROP	4.30	4.30
EVERGOLD	.31	.31
FAR EAST C	.67	.70
GEN ORIENT	0	44.00
H C DEVELOP	8.10	8.10
H S INDEX	329.35	347.17
HANG LUNG	4.25	4.35
HANG SENG	28.40	28.30
HAW PAR BR	0	21.00
HK ELEC CO	7.55	7.55
HK KOWLOON	5.80	5.95
HK LAND CO	7.00	7.10
HK SHAM BK	6.85	7.05
HK SHAM HT	3.60	3.75
HK TELE CO	7.25	7.35
NUCH UNAM	7.35	7.15
IND EO PAC	7.10	7.05
JARDINE H	10.40	10.50
KOWLOON H	10.20	10.60
NEW WORLD	8.00	8.15
PAUL Y CON	1.59	1.59
REALTY DEV	5.30	5.30
S H K CO	1.53	1.55
S H K PROP	8.45	8.55
STELL DARY	1.34	1.36
STELLUS MFG	5.05	5.15
SWIRE PAC	15.60	15.50
T V B CO	12.90	12.90
TAI CHEUNG	2.95	2.95
UNIT BANK	1.71	1.78
WOCK MARI	0	7.25
WOCK MARI	0	1.15
WORLD INTL	2.80	2.80

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AJINOMOTO	3430	3420
AKAI ELEC	530	525
AKAI OPT	975	960
ASAKI GAS	1910	1890
ASAKI OPT	580	580
BANK TOKYO	1490	1490
BRIDGESTON	1400	1420
CANON	1040	1040
CASIO COMP	1260	1260
CHUGAI MFG	0	1710
CITIZEN W	583	588
D-ITTEI KAN	3180	3190
DAI NIP K	796	796
DAI NIP PT	2620	2630
DAI NIP SC	980	990
DAI NIP TO	485	482
DAI NIP TO	818	810
DAIWA H	1800	1770
DAIWA SEC	2560	2550
DAIWA SEC	840	840
EI SAI	2450	2430
FUJITSU	1490	1470
FUJITSU	3370	3380
FUJITSU	4080	4080
FUJITSU	2040	2020
FUJITSU	733	736
HITACHI	1300	1290
HONDA MOT	1460	1460
ISETAN	1450	1460
ITO YOKADO	4270	4310
JAP SYN RU	985	955
JAPAN AIR	14000	14000
JAPAN MET	426	428
KAIJIMA	1570	1550
KANSAI EL	2940	2860
KAO SOAP	1940	1960
KAWASAKI H	323	316
KAWASAKI S	366	361
KIRIN BEV	2300	2320
KOMATSU	608	613
KUBOTA LTD	590	580
KYOCERA	5490	5520
MARUTI	1820	1840
MARUTI	3170	3220
MATSUDA EI	2530	2530
MATSUDA EL	2250	2240
NEIJI SEIK	920	925
NITSUB CP	1250	1190
NITSUB EL	621	610
NITSUB EST	2160	2150
NITSUBI CO	624	604
NITSUBI EL	766	752
NITSUBISHI	1680	1650
NITSUBI EL	1170	1190
NICHICON	1340	1350
NIHON CHMT	807	793
NIKKO SEC	1970	1940
NIP ELEC	2000	2020
NIP KOKKAN	324	307
NIP OIL	1180	1200
NIP STEEL	423	410
NIS YUSEN	564	559
NIS MOTOR	840	825
NONURA SEC	3790	3770
ONDA CO	1000	1020
OLYMPUS	1130	1170
PENTA OCN	844	854
PIIONEER	2810	2830
RENOWN	825	834
RICOH	1230	1250
SANKYO	2170	2170
SANYO ELEC	518	515
SEIYU ST	2660	2700
SEKISUI PB	1940	1910
SHARP	984	979
SHISEIDO	1750	1740
SONY	4850	4890
SUNITON	1120	1090
TAISEI	948	931
TAISEI MRM	1180	1180
TAKEDA CH	3100	3120
TEIJIIN	799	780
TKO NEW IX	45.92	38.56
TOKIO MRM	2050	2030
TOKYO ELEC	1200	1180
TOKYO GAS	1050	1010
TOKYO POWR	5890	5750
TORAY IND	795	794
TOSHIBA EL	763	763
TOTO	2310	2320
TOYO KOGY	424	428
TOYOTA MOT	2090	2070
YAMAHA	1030	1050
YAMAHATCHI	1980	1970
YAMAMOTUCHI	4140	4140
YAMAZAKI	1510	1510

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE HIGHER FOR NINTH SESSION

TOKYO, FEB 23 — SHARE PRICES CLOSED HIGHER FOR THE NINTH STRAIGHT SESSION DUE TO BUYING OF DOMESTIC-DEMAND RELATED AND LARGE CAPITALISATION SHARES, WITH BULLISHNESS OVERCOMING A MORNING BLOT OF PROFIT-TAKING, BROKERS SAID.

"PEOPLE KEEP EXPECTING A CORRECTION, BUT IT IS JUST NOT COMING," A BROKER SAID.

THE NIKKEI INDEX ROSE 102.74 POINTS, OR 0.41 PCT, TO 24,949.45 AFTER HITTING A MORNING LOW OF 24,759.75. IT ADVANCED 73.30 POINTS ON MONDAY.

RISES MATCHED FALLS IN TURNOVER OF 850 MLN SHARES AGAINST 830 MLN ON MONDAY.

COMMUNICATIONS, SECURITIES HOUSES, GAS, WAREHOUSE, RUBBER, RAILWAY/BUS, CONSTRUCTION, SHIPBUILDING, ELECTRIC POWER AND ROLLING STOCK SHARES LED THE ADVANCE.

RETAIL, BANK, PRECISION INSTRUMENT, ELECTRONIC AND SOME MANUFACTURING ISSUES DECLINED.

A LOWER TREND IN INTEREST RATES AND A STABLE CURRENCY EXCHANGE ARE THE TWO MAIN FACTORS WHICH HAVE HELPED PUSH THE MARKET TO POST-CRASH HIGHS, BROKERS SAID.

"THE MARKET HAS RECOVERED QUITE SUBSTANTIALLY," SAID DEPUTY BRANCH MANAGER TAKESHI MURAKAMI OF SCHROEDERS SECURITIES. "THE OUTLOOK IS VERY BRIGHT."

THE RECENT STRENGTH ON WALL STREET HAS BOLSTERED INVESTOR CONFIDENCE, BUT IS NOT A PRIMARY MARKET-MOVING REASON.

"FUNDAMENTALLY, WE ARE ON A DIFFERENT TREND THAN NEW YORK," SAID A BROKER AT ONE OF THE BIG FOUR JAPANESE BROKERAGES.

"WALL STREET IS NOT SUCH AN IMPORTANT FACTOR DAY TO DAY," SAID STRATEGIST CRAIG CHUDLER OF SMITH NEW COURT FAR EAST.

"TOKYO HAS OUTPERFORMED WALL STREET BY A LONG SHOT."

THE INDEX IS CURRENTLY 6.3 PCT OFF ITS OCTOBER 14 HIGH OF 26,646.43. GAINS FOR THE PAST NINE SESSIONS TOTAL 1,287.18 POINTS.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, FEB 23 — PROFIT-TAKING GATHERED MOMENTUM IN THE AFTERNOON, FORCING SHARE PRICES TO CLOSE NEAR THE DAY'S LOWS, BROKERS SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX FELL 17.82 TO END AT 2,329.35 AFTER RISING SOME 13 POINTS IN MID-MORNING. THE HONG KONG INDEX FELL 11.00 TO 1,524.30. TURNOVER WAS 533.28 MLN H.K. DLS AGAINST MONDAY'S 476.05 MLN DLS.

BROKERS SAID BUYING INTEREST EVAPORATED AFTER THE MARKET'S GAINS BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR AND ON MONDAY. SELLING BY OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS WAS PERSISTENT IN THE ABSENCE OF FAVOURABLE NEWS, THEY ADDED.

AMMAN

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AL HIMME MINERALS	0.79	0.79
AL-NISER EXCHANGE	0.89	0.90
ALA-ADON COMPANY	1.36	1.34
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.93	1.91
ARAB BANK	118.7	118.9
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.39	4.36
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.47	1.48
ARAB INSURANCE	1.00	1.00
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	0.95	0.96
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.53	0.58
ARAB INTER-HOTELS	0.53	0.58
ARAB JOR/INVST/BK	2.09	2.10
ARAB PAPER CON/TRA	0.37	0.36
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	2.09	2.08
ARAB PHARMA/CHEN	0.76	0.75
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	16.30	16.32
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	29.00	29.00
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	0.42	0.41
DAR ALNAHA DV/INV.	1.49	1.47
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.44	0.44
DEVELOP/INVEST/FOR.	0.62	0.62
FINANCE/CREDIT/CO.	0.62	0.62
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.30	1.30
GENERAL MINING.	1.50	1.50
HOLY LAND INS.	1.15	1.20
IND./MATCH JEMCO	0.73	0.73
INDSTR. DEVLPT BHK	1.29	1.30
INDSTR. COMM/AGR.	1.49	1.49
INDSTR. INVEST	1.53	1.52
INTERMED./PETRO/CH	1.53	1.52
INTERM. COM/INV	0.64	0.64
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.97	0.98
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64
J. PRESS FOUNDATION	3.50	3.28
JERUSALEM INS.	1.28	1.28
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	13.50	13.55
JOR CEMENT FACT.	1.03	1.03
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.06	1.06
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.01	25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.48	1.47
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.20
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.02	1.03
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.50	2.50
JOR INDUSTRY CREH.	1.71	1.67
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20
JOR LINE AND BRICK	0.23	0.23
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	---	---
JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.43	2.43
JOR PAPER CARD/BRDG	3.06	3.00</

Balladur proposes rebuilding global monetary system

PARIS, Feb. 23, (Reuters): French Finance Minister Edouard Balladur proposed moving towards some form of fixed exchange rates today, saying floating rates had proved anarchic.

They were "probably one of the essential causes of the economic disorders of the past 15 years," he wrote in an article in the Wall Street Journal newspaper.

The article was written for the first anniversary of the Louvre Accord in Paris in which the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations agreed to concert efforts to brake a fall in the value of the dollar.

Envisage
Balladur said the accord, and a further G-7 declaration last December after the stock market crash, showed that key industrial nations agreed on the collective management of exchange rates and coordination of economic policies.

But, beyond this, he said it was necessary to envisage a true international monetary system with a standard unit of value — which would probably give a role to gold.

There would have to be sanctions for countries that did not stay in line.

"The time is ripe for dispassionate consideration of this issue, since inflation has receded and the Louvre agreements are working well," he said.

Balladur said inflation had been largely brought under control in the main industrial nations, so, for the first time in 15 years, this prerequisite for restoring an international monetary system had been fulfilled.

Collapsed
The post-war Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates collapsed in the early 1970s, a period of high inflation.

In that system, other currencies were fixed against the dollar which was itself convertible into gold at a fixed price. US economic troubles and the cost of the Vietnam war forced then President Richard Nixon to devalue the dollar against gold in 1971 and the system soon collapsed.

In the Wall Street Journal article, Balladur proposed that nations entrust a small group of distinguished people to study a new system but did not say who these should be.

Balladur put forward three possible solutions, although each had drawbacks.

One was a system based on international cooperation. Building on and strengthening the spirit of the Louvre Accord.

But he said: "There is no doubt that while the Louvre system represents major progress over the anarchy of floating exchange rates, it does not constitute a true international monetary system." A second approach would be a mechanism similar to the European Monetary System (EMS) in which key European currencies float within agreed bands against the dollar. Balladur thought that a world currency, not the dollar, should be the reference point in an expanded EMS-type system.

Dramatic 25pc increase in Qatar's oil product output

DOHA, Feb. 23, (Opecna): Qatar produced 10.5 million barrels of oil products last year, up by 25 per cent over 1986.

The statistics were included in a statement issued here today marking the 16th anniversary of the succession of Amir Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, highlighting the achievements made in Qatar's economic development.

The statement said that the Qatar National Oil Distribution Company last year increased production of oil products by 42 per cent over the 1987 operational figure.

The country's petrochemicals company also recorded "substantial" growth in productivity last year, producing 258,000 tons of ethylene, 176,000 tons of polyethylene and 44,000 tons of sulphur, it noted.

Qatar's Iron and Steel Company produced 499,000 tons of steel, 493,000 tons of reinforced construction bars and 487,000 tons of sponge iron during the year, competing favourably with top international companies in the field.

Rates

The National Fertilizer Company achieved high rates of productivity in 1987 with 747,000 tons of urea and 658,000 tons of ammonia, while Qatar's cement output topped 323,000 tons.

Qatar's industrial development, said the statement, was heading for a "prosperous" future with the commissioning of the huge North Dome gasfield in the late 1990s.

Dollar eases

Shares extend rally

LONDON, Feb. 23, (Reuters): Share prices around the world extended an advance of recent days today but the investor optimism puzzled brokers in several centres.

The dollar and gold eased. "This market should be down, down, down, but nobody wants it to go down," said a share dealer in Frankfurt.

Tokyo, the biggest stock market, rose from the ninth straight session — "people keep expecting a correction, but it is just not coming," said a broker there.

In London, a trader said: "I'd feel happier about this week's rises if they were based on some solid volume. This way, some bad news could take the market down just as fast."

Today's stock markets around the globe were buoyed by reports of a brisk advance in New York stocks on Monday.

This took the Dow Jones industrial average up 25.70

points to 2,040.29, the second best close since October 19, when it lost a global market collapse.

Tokyo's key Nikkei index ended today up 102.74 at 24,949.45. London FTSE index of 100 blue-chip British shares then opened a 17.4-point Monday advance, and held around that level through mid-morning.

Low

In London, however, the volume of trading was low, as it has been for several weeks. Traders say bid institutions remain wary of the stock market.

Meanwhile, the dollar slipped, and European brokers said any sharp dollar fall could quickly renew jitters about prospects for the global economy in the stock markets.

The dollar during the European morning hovered just above 1.69 West German marks and around 128.50 Japanese yen,

having held above 1.70 and 129 through last week.

Currency dealers said they were waiting for testimony to Congress later today by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board (Central Bank) for clues on the direction of the US economy.

Down

The pound sterling was barely changed, fetching \$1.7657 and 2.988 marks at 1000 GMT. Gold was fixed in the London market at \$443.95 an ounce, slightly down on 445.50 on Monday afternoon.

Among continental European bourses, Paris shares were firmer ahead of the main trading session. Frankfurt opened firmer in moderate trading.

In Asia, Sydney's main share index rose 13.1 points to 1,268.8 but after a morning rise Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended the day 17.82 points down at 2,329.35.

Mix of politics and policy shows in trade law manoeuvring

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23, (Reuters): US lawmakers, casting a wary eye on their parties' presidential chances this year, have delayed deciding on a controversial trade proposal until after March 8 "super Tuesday" in the primary election calendar.

House of Representatives and Senate members of a committee trying to draft what amounts to a new national trade policy quietly agreed last week to hold off on the amendment named for its sponsor, Democratic presidential hopeful Richard Gephardt.

The Gephardt amendment, which is being discussed against the backdrop of a record \$171.2 billion US trade deficit last year, would force the president to retaliate against countries which used unfair trade practices.

Avoid

Lawmakers said they wanted to avoid embarrassing its sponsor before voters in 20, mostly southern states, pick delegates on March 8 to attend the party nominating conventions this summer.

Gephardt, from the southern state of Missouri, made the proposed get-tough measure a key vehicle for pushing his presidential nomination hopes. Earlier this month, he came first in the Iowa caucuses and second in the New Hampshire primary.

The vote-catching image of the "48,000 Hyundai" — Gephardt's description of the cost of an imported South Korean car if it had to meet the same tariffs and duties of US export to that market — encouraged him to play well to northern skilled workers fearful of losing jobs because of overseas competition.

Protect

But critics of the amendment have said the idea of automatically retaliating against a country that has a trade surplus with the United States is at odds with the US drive to promote freer trade and export more goods.

Gephardt is expected to push his economic nationalism, which seeks to protect American economic power, in the south, hoping to again strike a chord among conservative working-class voters.

But the influential chairman of the House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, Democrat Sam Gibbons of Florida, said the Gephardt proposal would not survive the committee stage.

"He (Gephardt) will lose his amendment," Gibbons told a Florida business conference yesterday. "He won't lose it until after super Tuesday because we don't want to embarrass him."

Gibbons is a member of the

committee now reconciling differing versions of trade legislation passed by the House and the Senate. The goal is to create one sweeping trade bill that is likely to set policy for handling international trade relations into the next century.

Measure

Gibbons, like Reagan, said Gephardt's measure could invite retaliation against the United States.

"We shouldn't put a trade surplus as a measure (triggering quotas) because America has run surpluses in the past and by necessity will run them in the future," he said.

The Gephardt amendment is an integral part of the House bill, but the White House has threatened to veto the entire package if it was part of an omnibus bill.

Policies

The conference has set a schedule for wrapping up its negotiations on a single bill by March 23 and Gibbons said it could reach the White House for presidential approval by Easter, on April 3.

President Reagan, in his annual economic report to Congress last week reiterated his determination to veto any protectionist trade bill.

BP wins battle for control of another UK oil firm

LONDON, Feb. 23, (Reuters): Oil multinational British Petroleum Co Plc (BP) today won a long battle for control of a smaller British oil company, Britoil Plc, when the government agreed not to exercise special rights which it holds in Britoil.

In return, BP undertook to meet certain conditions. Britoil owns valuable North Sea oil and gas reserves. It has built up an 80 per cent stake in Britoil in a £2.5 billion takeover.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, announcing the decision in parliament, said the government had accepted BP assurances on North Sea investment and job plans for Britoil.

Return

"The government have told BP that, in return for these assurances, and so long as we are satisfied that BP are complying with them, we do not intend to exercise any of the rights attaching (to) the special share," he said.

He was referring to a so-called "Golden Share" which the government holds in Britoil, conferring the right to outvote all other shareholders, which is a legacy of a time when the Scottish-based firm was under state control.

BP also agreed that Britoil's board will be headed by a non-executive chairman with no prior BP connections whose appointment would be agreed by the government, Lawson added.

Exploration

The government had been reluctant to give up its rights because of fears that North Sea exploration would be sacrificed by BP in favour of its overseas operations and also because of Scottish misgivings about possible job losses.

Under the agreement, the government would still have a right to vote on corporate management issues and will have joint say with BP on the appointment of the majority of non-executive board members, Lawson said.

Britoil's Glasgow office will be the headquarters for the management of BP and Britoil's combined British production and crude oil exploration assets and of BP, Norwegian and Irish interests, he said.

He added that BP would seek an increase in the size of its reserves in recoverable reserves from Britoil's North Sea oil fields and undertake to increase exploration substantially.

Budget to focus on putting economy back on track

NEW DELHI, Feb. 23, (Reuters): Efforts to drag India's economy back on course after last year's disastrous drought and close the cash gap threatening the country's ambitious development plans are expected to mark next week's budget.

When Finance Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari delivers his budget on Monday he will be juggling with limited options, according to businessmen and economists surveyed by Reuters.

Elections are due by December 1989 and the Congress (I) government wants to take any hard decisions now to give it the chance to soften up voters with a giveaway budget next year.

One economist said luxury consumer goods could be heavily hit.

Liberalisation

Businessmen are calling for a return to the trade and fiscal liberalisation that characterised the first budget of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's administration in 1985.

India's economy, beset with difficulties, defies easy remedies. "In spite of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's robust optimism, the economy is not in a very good shape," said Calcutta economics professor Alak Ghosh. "It is sim-

ply trying very hard to clear out of the danger zone."

One of the country's worst droughts this century is blamed for more than halving gross domestic product (GDP) growth from a target of five per cent, while wholesale price inflation almost doubled to 9.2 per cent in December from 4.9 in April.

Economist V. Sriam of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry in India said Tiwari had little room to raise direct taxes. He forecast greater reliance on external loans because New Delhi's demands on the domestic capital markets were making it difficult for industry to raise money.

Gandhi pledged last year that the budget deficit would not go above Rs 56.88 billion (\$4.38 billion), but the drought threw all government forecasts out.

Spending cuts, tax surcharges on the well-to-do and extra aid from the World Bank and bilateral donors have stanchied the haemorrhaging caused by relief to millions of rural poor.

But Sriam said the government still faced a yawning resource gap if it wanted to complete development projects mapped out in its five-year plan ending in 1990.

Farm subsidies and defence spending, which shot up 45 per cent in last year's budget, are politically difficult to cut, especially with some 50,000 Indian troops deployed on a peace-keeping mission in Sri Lanka.

Businessmen said they wanted more government efforts to promote exports and to free regulations binding industry.

Official figures show India's trade gap shrank to Rs 34.84 billion (\$12.68 billion) in the first seven months of 1987/88 from 40.78 billion (\$3.14 billion) the previous year.

P.N. Joshi, an economist with the state-owned Bank of India, said the 27 per cent rise in exports during the period was largely a reflection of a cheaper rupee and did not indicate any appreciable rise in export volume.

Bombay Stock Exchange president Mahendra Kampani called for tax exemption on dividend income, saying taxation was a major constraint on India's depressed capital markets.

"We also expect more incentives to Non-Resident Indians to induce them into sending more funds to India by way of investments in shares and bank deposits," he said.

GIC set to grow further

THOUGH many would not agree, 1987 was a good business year, according to the board chairman of the Gulf Investment Company (GIC) Ghazi Fahd Al Nafissi who said GIC grew 45 per cent in assets that year.

Al Nafissi, in an interview with Kuna yesterday, put the company's assets at KD287.5 million and said GIC was very minimally hurt, if at all, in the last October 19 stock market crash.

Achievements

The impact, he said, was very well cushioned by the GIC diversified and conservative portfolios which were spread geographically over a vast area covering the Far East, Europe and the US.

He specifically cited the fact that the 10-year-old company has heavily invested in the real estate and hotel business.

He said chief among GIC achievements in 1987 was that the company liquidated some 20 portfolio components with "a relatively high profit" plus a "quantum leap" in the GIC investment instruments structure.

This was done by the GIC establishing a closed shareholding investment company in Kuwait, Al Nafissi said.

In 1987 GIC shareholders took some eight per cent in net profit after two years of poor GIC performance, he added.

On best investment avenues, Al Nafissi singled out real-estate and securities as the two potential areas where an investor can

dump his cash.

Though real-estate investment is hard to liquidate at times, it is more steadily profitable. Money markets yield quicker profit but one cannot always escape their volatility hazards, he said.

Trends

Asked on international financial and economic trends in 1988, he indicated that caution now is the best policy in view of the recent domino-fashion collapse of the world stock markets and the failure of the US to control its budget and trade deficits.

Al Nafissi added that the region's markets cannot distance themselves from the uncertainties of the world economy and the destabilising effects of the Iraq-Iran and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Bid to expand foreign trade

China pledges further economic reforms

GENEVA, Feb. 23, (Reuters): China, seeking to return to the world trade body GATT after an absence of almost 40 years, gave assurances today that it would carry out further economic reforms and expand its foreign trade.

Peking's case for re-entry — put to the 96-nation body here by Shen Juergen, Assistant Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade — was welcomed by major trading nations including the United States, Japan, European Economic Community members and Canada, but they expressed doubts about the pace of China's reforms, delegates said.

Shen asked that China be accorded the most-favoured nation treatment within the GATT system and preferential treatment as a developing country.

China, which quit the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1950 after the Communists came to power, first asked to resume its seat in July, 1986.

Readmission

A GATT working party, set up last year, opened its first meeting on China's readmission, which continues tomorrow. The next

working party meeting is expected in April.

China's subsidies and pricing policies, which make its goods cheap on world markets, as well as its quantitative restrictions on imports, drew statements of concern during the debate, delegates said.

Shen said in his address, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, that great strides had been made since the open-door policy began.

"Over the past nine years, profound changes have taken place in China's original economic structure. The objective of our reform, clear and irreversible, is to establish a system of planned commodity economy of Chinese style, which integrates planning with the market," he told the closed-door meeting.

"This reform process would eventually bring China's economic and trade structure in line with the GATT system," he added.

China's negotiations to enter the GATT are seen as a test case for the Soviet Union, which has yet to apply formally.

"This will certainly be a negotiation of some years," said one official who attended the meeting.

Douglas Newkirk, assistant US trade representative, said in a speech that Washington was studying aspects of China's trade regime which were inconsistent with GATT rules, including those which precluded market access and market prices.

The United States and 12-nation European Economic Community viewed China's readmission as a normal accession process which had to be negotiated with all GATT members. Both called for more complete Chinese trade data.

A Japanese delegate, Yuji Ikeda, said in a speech: "It is certainly encouraging that China, which is making efforts to establish a price system and introduce market decision-making, has decided to share the GATT as the international trade discipline to govern its external trade relations."

Reform

"Japan hopes that this economic reform now under way will be conducted in such a way as to ensure a full integration of China into the GATT regime," Ikeda added.

Shen conceded in his remarks: "China has not yet been able to shake off poverty and backwardness thoroughly."

Most of the 800 million Chinese living in rural areas still used hand tools to make a living, and many industries were "even a century behind modern industrial standards."

Shen commented: "In short, China remains in the early stage of economic development."

China will continue to pursue the general policy of restructuring the economy and opening to the outside world.

China's highly centralised planning system had been reduced and market regulation was expanding, he said.

Shen said the previous economic system based on pure public ownership had given way to one with "public ownership as the predominant factor," supplemented by collective, individual, private, joint Chinese-foreign and full foreign ownership.

China's trade was \$83.78 billion in 1987, a four-fold expansion from \$20.64 billion in 1978, he said.

The adoption of the open policy, more than 10,000 enterprises from more than 40 countries had invested in China. More than 1,000 Chinese firms were entitled to engage in foreign trade, according to Shen.

Farm exporters to discuss ending subsidies

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 23, (Reuters): Countries which want the United States, the European Economic Community and others to stop subsidising farmers hope to come up with new tactics in talks this week at an Argentine mountain resort.

The so-called Cairns group, which began its meetings tomorrow, includes such countries as Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada and Indonesia which rely on agricultural exports and suffer because US and EEC farm subsidies create surpluses and depress world prices.

Freeze

Thirteen of the 14 members of the group, which is named after the Australian town where it was formed, will discuss ways to convince the United States, EEC and others to accept a gradual elimination of subsidies. Argentine Agriculture Secretary Ernesto

Figueras said.

The EEC and the United States each spends about \$25 billion annually on supporting domestic agriculture. The Cairns group wants a freeze on the pay-offs by late 1988 and their elimination by the year 2000.

The three-day meeting in San Carlos de Bariloche, 1,000 miles (1,600 km) southwest of Buenos Aires, will be the third of the Cairns group since the Uruguay round of negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) began in Punta Del Este, Uruguay, in Sept. 1986. The four-year GATT round is continuing in Geneva.

The Cairns group session will bring together senior commerce and agriculture officials from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, Hungary and

Uruguay. Fiji is the only member of the group that is not sending a representative.

The politically sensitive question of reducing or eliminating agricultural protectionism and support programmes has been one of the two subjects at the 105-nation Uruguay round of GATT negotiations.

Reduce

The agricultural question had been left largely untouched in the seven previous rounds since GATT's founding in 1947.

The EEC, Washington and the Cairns group, all export nations, as well as Japan have each submitted a proposal since the start of the negotiations.

Japan, although a net farm product importer, has been criticised for failing to reduce its protection of its meat, rice and citrus markets.

Figueras said the Cairns proposal incorporates elements

of both the American and EEC positions.

Washington last July proposed ending all subsidies in the year 2000, while leaving things virtually unchanged until then.

In October the EEC, which favours reduction rather than elimination of subsidies, proposed an immediate agreement on fixed export prices for sugar, cereal and dairy products as a first step.

Positive

"The US proposal is good in its final (free market) philosophy, but it harms us in the meanwhile," Figueras said. "We don't know whether we will last 10 years, but we will not renounce the idea of eliminating subsidies."

He said the positive element of the EEC stance was its proposal for short-term measures to reduce farm support.

Bonds issue

oversubscribed

THE fifth flotation of public borrowing instruments issued in the form of treasury bills worth KD200 million was heavily oversubscribed, according to Central Bank Governor Sheikh Saleh Abdulaziz Al Sabah yesterday.

In a statement to Kuna, Sheikh Saleh pointed out that the bank has received subscription offers totalling KD385 million representing 193 per cent of the flotation's value.

Sheikh Saleh added that KD120 million of this latest issue will be used for the repayment of the first issue of treasury bills falling due today.

He noted that the bank has received offer prices ranging between 98.878 and 98.350 per cent yielding an annual interest of between 4.50 and 6.618 per cent.

But he added that the bank's average selling price was 98.749 per cent, allowing per annum interest of 5.018.

IDB loans for

S. Yemen, Morocco

JEDDAH, Feb. 23, (Reuters): The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) signed agreements today to lend \$7 million to South Yemen and \$10 million to Morocco.

The bank said the South Yemen loan, payable over 20 years with a five-year grace period, would be used to build a 40 km (25-mile) road in the Lawdar district North of Aden.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Feb. 23, (Reuters): The market rally continued as prices

closed stronger across the board with industrials in demand amid expectation of some solid half-year results. The All Ordinaries index closed near its peak, up 13.1 points at 1,236.8.

TOKYO: Shares closed higher for the ninth straight session with bullishness overcoming a morning bout of profit-taking. The Nikkei index rose 102.74 points or 0.41 per cent to 24,949.45 after hitting a morning low of 24,759.75.

HONG KONG: Share prices closed steady but off their highs on light profit-taking in the afternoon. The Hang Seng index rose 19.13 points to end the day at 2,347.17.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed marginally lower over a broad front on profit-taking, after seven straight days of gains.

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KUWAIT City, Khafri Building, behind G.P.O., opp. Ashraf Studio. Single room for 1 or 2 Indian bachelors or working girls to share with a Catholic family. Tel. 2414065, after 2 pm. (AT4-41131-2)

SALMIYA, furnished room for a single working girl, Indian or Pakistani. Tel. 5634802. (AT3-41148-3)

BENEID AL QAR, near the Hilton Hotel. One furnished room, for bachelors. Tel. Mr. Nabil, 2403097. (AT3-41145-3)

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KEIFAN, Area 7, House 23, Keifan Street. Accommodation with tele facilities for an Indian family or bachelors. Bus route 31. Rent KD 55. Tel. Shabbir, 4841885. (AT3-41144-2)

KEIFAN, opp. Jamalya No. 1, Area 3, Street 31, House No 6. Rooms available for Indian couples or family. Contact Sultan Mohammed in person between 5-9 pm. (AT3-41140-3)

KUWAIT City, Amman Street. One room with kitchen and tele. facilities for a small Indian family, working girls or bachelors. Rent KD 65. Tel. 5621725. (AT3-41110-3)

NUGRA near Hawalli Clinic. Furnished one bedroom in a two-bed room flat with tele facilities from 1st March for a family or bachelors. Rent negotiable. Tel. 2613547 after 5 pm. (AT3-41135-2)

For Rent

DAIYA Abdullah Al Salem, opp. Sayeed Ali Al Sayeed Solaiman Street, Block 4, Street 47, House 3. 2 floors of a villa with a big basement. Tel. 5640131. (AT4-41123-3)

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SOFA set, AC's, oven, fridge, dressing table and dining table with 4 chairs for immediate sale. Tel. Tony, 3921187. (AT3-41094-3)

A FURNISHED apartment for sale with one bedroom, CAC, tele and TV, cable. Price negotiable. Rent KD 150. Tel. Mr or Mrs Al Jundi, 5335254, after 7.30 pm. (AT4-41129-3)

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کویت 88

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دس سال پہلے کویت ایک چھوٹے سے قصبے سے

ایک بڑے شہر میں

تبدیل ہو چکا ہے،

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امیر کویت

شیخ جابر الاحمد الصباح
ولیعہد و وزیر اعظم
شیخ سعد عبداللہ السالم الصباح

کویتی حکومت اور عوام کو ۲۰۰ ویں عید الوطنی کے موقع پر مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہیں

پاکستان نیشنل آرگنائزیشن - کویت

آئیے آپ کو پاکستان لے چلیں
اپنے گھر جیسا آرام، خلوص اور خوشی پی آئی لے ہی سے ملتی ہے

پاکستان نیشنل آرگنائزیشن کویت کے قیام کے لیے ایک نیا سفر شروع کر رہی ہے۔ اس کے تحت کویت میں پاکستانی تاجروں، کارکنوں اور طلبہ کی خدمت کے لیے ایک نیا ادارہ قائم کیا جائے گا۔ اس ادارے کے تحت کویت میں پاکستانی تاجروں، کارکنوں اور طلبہ کی خدمت کے لیے ایک نیا ادارہ قائم کیا جائے گا۔

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ہم کویت کے ۲۰ ویں قومی دن کے

برسر موقع پر
اعلیٰ حضرت امیر کویت
اعلیٰ حضرت ولی عہد و وزیر اعظم
شیخ سعد عبداللہ السالم الصباح
کویتی حکومت اور عوام کو
بادیہ تہنیت پیش کرتے ہیں

کویت بحری انٹرنیشنل بیکنگ کمپنی کے ۹ سال

ہم بہترین خدمت کی بہترین مثال

ہماری بیکنگ کمپنی کے جاری کردہ مخصوص ڈرافٹ پاکستان
حبیب بینک لمیٹڈ پاکستان کی کسی بھی برانچ سے پیش کر سکتے ہیں۔

ان ڈرافٹس کو آپ بطور سفری چیک بھی استعمال کر سکتے ہیں۔ ان ڈرافٹس کی حبیب بینک لمیٹڈ پاکستان کی کسی بھی برانچ میں ہالڈرز کو پیش کر سکتے ہیں۔

ہم بہترین خدمت کے لیے ایک نیا سفر شروع کر رہی ہیں۔ اس کے تحت کویت میں پاکستانی تاجروں، کارکنوں اور طلبہ کی خدمت کے لیے ایک نیا ادارہ قائم کیا جائے گا۔

یوم آزادی مناوشائے

کویت آزادی کے گلو کویت والو شان سے
برگلی کوچہ سچو کویت والو شان سے
جشن آزادی مناوشائے

زمنہ یاد زمانہ یاد کویت ہمارا زمانہ یاد
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Rockets beat 76ers

NEW YORK, Feb. 23, (AP) — Here's a roundup of National Basketball Association action last night:

Rockets 118, 76ers 106
Sleepy Floyd scored 20 points, leading seven Houston players in double figures as the Rockets beat Philadelphia 118-106. The 76ers lost their 15th straight road game, tying a team record.

Buck Johnson tied his career-high with 19 points for Houston, which won for the 10th time in 12 games. Akeem Olatunji had 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Celtics 95, Knicks 93
Boston forward Larry Bird scored 36 points to become second-leading scorer in club history as the Celtics held off the New York Knicks 95-93.

Bird, scoring 18 points in each half, hit on three 3-point baskets and connected on two free throws with 39 seconds left as Boston handed the Knicks their 18th consecutive road defeat, in Hartford, Connecticut.

Mavericks 114, Suns 107
Roy Tarpley came off the bench for a career-high 27 points and a 23 rebounds, leading Dallas past Phoenix Suns 114-107.

Tarpley became only the third Maverick in club history with at least 20 points and 20 rebounds in a single game. Tarpley, a forward, tied his career high in rebounds in the game in Dallas.

Nuggets 100, Bulls 87
Danny Schayes led Denver in scoring for the first time this season with 21 points and Alex English scored seven straight points in the fourth quarter as the Nuggets beat the Washington Bulls 100-87.

The victory in Denver was the Nuggets' eighth victory in their last nine home games.

Warriors 123, Spurs 111
Otis Smith came off the bench to deliver 23 points and several other reserves played major roles for the Golden State Warriors in a 123-111 NBA victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

Ralph Sampson, the Warriors' starting centre, got into foul trouble early and played only five minutes of the first half, scoring two points in the game in Oakland, California.

86 golfers to compete in Closed Championship

By Stan Marshall

EIGHTY six golfers will be competing for the Kuwait Closed Championship to be played over 36 holes at the Hunting & Equestrian Club this coming weekend.

The handicap limit was fixed at 20 or better for golfers resident in Kuwait and 81 men and five ladies qualified to enter.

Toyota are again sponsoring the event via their Kuwait agent Mohamed Nasser Al Sayer & Sons and are putting up a prize of a new car for a hole-in-one on the 110 yards hole 13.

Buck Sands have entered 17 players including 1984 champion Kevin Sloan with Roy Myers and B. Griffen also expected to be in contention.

The Ahmadi Club have 25 entrants including Mohamed Siddique who was runner-up in last month's Stabelford Championship at the same venue. Also playing will be Roy Connor and former Kuwait Open triple champion Tony Redshaw.

Last year's winner Fathi Al Khadra has gone to Portugal and is not competing.

The home club has the largest entry of 44 golfers including two-handicappers Brian Ballagh and 1986 champion Geoff Dean. There is also Kwang Ho Chung who holds the course record with a gross 71.

Te-off starts at 08.00 hours on Thursday and champions quest all competitors to check the starting times posted at all three clubs or call him on 2447851 or 2420933.

Zimbabwe win golf qualifier

HARARE, Feb. 23, (Reuters): Zimbabwe cruised to victory by eight strokes in the Dunhill Cup golf African qualifying round today, to clinch a place in the final at St Andrews, Scotland, from October 13-16.

Billy Koen hit 75 after his one under par 71 yesterday and Anthony Edwards shot 72 to give the home side a winning total of 294 at the end of a rain-soaked two-day competition.

Final scores: Zimbabwe 294 W Koen 146 (71 75), A Edwards 148 (76 72), T Price 150 (75 75).

Kenya 306 C Farrar 157 (78 79), J Njunge 149 (72 77), G Ndegwa 168 (88 80).

Tanzania 307 S Mwanenza 150 (75 75), M Juma 157 (77 80), M Mwanenza 173 (89 84).

Egypt 311 M Mousa 156 (79 77), A Hanafi 155 (79 76), S Mohammed 161 (82 79).

Zambia 330 P Tembo 165 (83 82), P Sinyama 165 (81 84), G Mwanza 166 (83 83).

KUWAITI TEAM TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL DAY IN DUBAI

Tough competition expected at Masafi 4WD Rally

DUBAI: Ahmed Al Helal and Fahed Al Rashid are planning to celebrate Kuwait's National Day with a powerful surge across a rugged corner of the UAE's rain-drenched desert in the Masafi 4WD Rally at the weekend.

Their team Citizen-Mitsubishi Pajero will be displaying two Kuwaiti flags borrowed from the Kuwaiti consulate in Dubai when they line up for the start of the gruelling 24 hour "sprint" event here tomorrow.

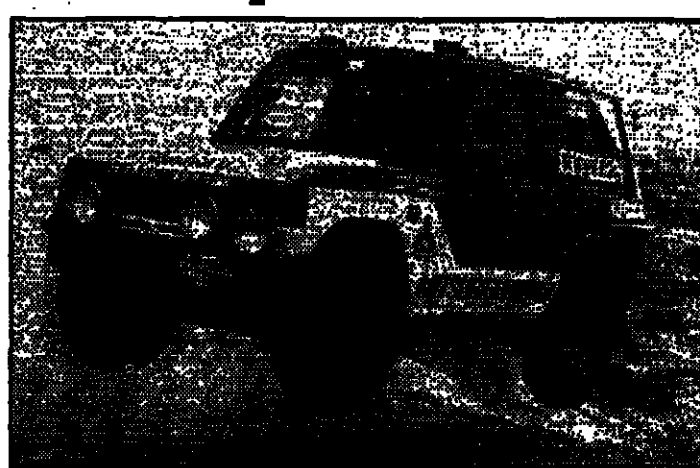
Challenge
Traditionally the challenge has been between UAE drivers, in particular Mariboro drivers Mohammed Bin Sulayem and Ahmed Bin Khalifa. However, this year there will be a broader Gulf competitive element with the participation of the Qatari ace Saeed Al Hajri and Kuwait champion, Ahmed Al Helal as part of a Mitsubishi Pajero team.

"I still think it will be a local driver who wins this year" com-

mented 27 years old Bin Sulayem.

The top two seeds will go to last years winner Ahmed Bin Khalifa in a Land Rover 110 and Middle East champion Mohammed Bin Sulayem in a Range Rover. Without question these two Mariboro backed drivers will be the top pace setters in the 24 hour long 1,000 km classic. It represents for both a great test of honour and prestige to win the Masafi title.

For Al Hajri, like Bin Sulayem, a twice Middle East champion, this rally will give him the opportunity to prove a point too after his recent home defeat to Bin Sulayem in the Qatar International Rally. Kuwait champion Al Helal who partners the Qatari in the Mitsubishi team, will have the opportunity to prove a point also following the disappointment of not winning the 1987 Mariboro Desert Challenge despite having led it for two of the three 4x4 rounds.



Al Hajri and Al Helal during a practice run.

Looking forward to challenge ahead, Al Helal, the 33-year-old Kuwait champion, said last night: "My first goal will be to finish the rally. I will try to stay with the leaders, but I don't want to break the car on my first attempt in the Masafi."

Record rainfall has saturated

the 1,000-km route. But although the 80-km southern loop, the longest of the special stages, may have to be cancelled, the organisers say the event will definitely go ahead.

"Some of the tracks have been washed away, but on my first practice run I got through the



Bin Sulayem talking to reporters.

route from start to finish without any problems," said Al Helal. "It will be very difficult for me to win the rally because there are a lot of other drivers here who know the route so much better than I do. But I will be trying to finish in a good position."

The Masafi, which involves

24-hours of virtual non-stop driving — much of it in darkness — has earned a reputation for being the toughest rally in the Middle East.

The quality of this year's 35-vehicle field is emphasised by the fact that Al Helal's Citizen-Mitsubishi team-mate, two-times

Middle East champion Saeed Al Hajri of Qatar, is seeded as low as seventh in his Pajero.

First away from Dubai's Al Ghurair Centre tomorrow at 4 pm in a Land Rover will be the UAE's Ahmed Khalifa, last year's winner. He will be followed by Dubai's Middle East champion, Mohammed Bin Sulayem, in a Range Rover, and Abdullah Omar, one of the UAE's most experienced desert specialists, in another Citizen-Mitsubishi Pajero.

Immediately after the Masafi, Al Helal and Al Rashid, his 31-year-old navigator, will return home to prepare for the Kuwait International Rally, the second round of the 1988 Fisa Middle East Championship, on March 17 and 18.

High hopes
After winning the opening round of this year's national series in their new Rothmans Toyota Corolla, the two serving Kuwait Air Force officers have high hopes of another good performance in their home international event. They finished fifth last year.

Ambassadors edge Magcobar in Little League

By Sue Behbehani

AMBASSADORS edged out Magcobar in a Little League match for the 4th game of yesterday. This was another episode of two teams playing each other with no losses this season. I have to say this was one of the most exciting, well played, and challenging games of the day and kept the spectators on the edge.

After 3 innings the score was 4 to 3 in favour of AMA. In the 4th inning no runs were made by either team.

Short
Because all innings were short, 6 innings were played before the time limit. In the 5th inning Magcobar came out in the lead with 5 runs and held A M A with 2 runs.

Finally AMA managed to take the game away in the last inning with 3 runs and holding Magcobar with no runs. Final score

Magcobar 8 and AMA 9.

B T C played M & M's in final game for today. M & M's had 6 players to make a total of 9 home runs in this one game with only 3 innings. This was the first victory for M & M's this season. Final score BTC 14 and M & M's 30.

Tied
Teelbat teams UAS challenged Al Julaiha in the 3rd game. At the bottom of the 4th inning this was a tied game of 6 to 6 and a 5th inning was played with overtime for the tie breaker.

UAS went in at the top of the 5th inning and managed to get 5 runs across home plate, which was the highest score in an inning made by either team during the entire game. Al Julaiha wasn't as successful with 2 scorers, and so with this inning left them with their first defeat of the season.

Until this game both of these teams had been undefeated and so only one team could walk

away with this same title. Final score Al Julaiha 8 and UAS 11.

Game 1
Santa Fe International 28 [Stanley Ehret (4) Athena Hoffman (3), Lewis Alvarez (4), Thari Ibrahim (4), Matthew Symon (3), Vincent Polk (4), Steve Dimmsler (3), Said Jamsheed (3), Ali Basraut (1)] Santa Fe Braun 2 [Shahab Al Badou (1), Sommer Al Nasrallah (1)].

Game 2
Getty 10 [Denny Stucker (1), Ahmed Al Najjar (2), Yousef Al Najjar (2), Robby Bhatia (2), John Miller (1), Ahmed Mokhtar (1), Ramsey Haji (1)] Computink 2 [Donat Ha Lee (1), Mohammed Khan (1)].

Game 3
UAS 11 [Amir Gul (2), George Georgopolis (3), David Gagner (2), Steve Georgopolis (1), Karim Abu Zeid (1), Mohammed Shaaban (1), Basal Al Shamiri (1)] Al Julaiha 8 [Raid Al

Labadi (1), Tarek Hamdan (1), Hitham Rajab (1), Khalifa Misaid (2), Gibran Hamdan (1), Nawaf Abu Rabe (1), Mohamad Ahmed (1)].

Game 4
Ambassadors 9 [Cory Fox (2), Hisham Navarro (4), Erik Fox (1), Jihad Sakhlleh (1), Moid Kungkar (1)] Magcobar 8 [Yusef Al Qallaf (2), Aziz Al Arfaj (1), Tarek About Amin (2), Samer Koubaissi (1), Shunsaku Ito (1), Makoto Imai (1)].

Game 5
M & M's 30 [Ryan Fox (3), Ali Al Qallaf (2), Yaseem Ali (2), Lucas Runte (3), Ahmed Fathallah (3), Sami Behbehani (3), Rahman Al Salem (3), Andrew Colwell (3), Yasmin Al Salem (1), Mahmoud Rasheed (2), Austin Smith (1), Nawaf Al Hamad (2), Ziad Sakhlleh (2)] B T C 14 [Jamal (3), Radeepan (4), Ravi (1), Billy (1), Samantha (2), Eric (2), Donna (1)].

Chavez to fight Perez

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 23, (AP) — Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico, the World Boxing Association lightweight champion, confirmed yesterday that he will fight Nicky Perez of the United States in a non-title bout March 5 in the border city of Tijuana next month.

Chavez said in a phone interview that his plan to fight Puerto Rico's Juan Laporte on March 5 in Tijuana did not come through.

"Laporte rejected my offer and said that he would prefer to wait to face the superfeatherweight winner," Chavez said.

He referred to the winner of next Monday night's bout in Los Angeles between Mario "Azabache" Martinez and Azumah Nelson of Ghana for the World Boxing Council title Chavez left vacant on Dec 14.

Chavez said his March 5 fight against Perez will be a warmup for his first defence of his lightweight title, scheduled for April 16 in Las Vegas, Nevada, against Rodolfo Aguilar of Panama.

"I can't explain why none of the 10 ranked boxers of the World Boxing Association wanted to accept my offer for the title (fight)," said Chavez, who already is in Tijuana. "I think that the WBA president, Gilberto Mendoza, should look into the matter."

Aborigines plan to play at Lords

LONDON, Feb. 23, (AP) — A team of aborigine cricketers planning an historic seven-week tour of England this summer are fighting to keep alive their dream of playing at Lords.

Officials of the Marylebone Cricket Club, which runs Lords, have turned down their request to play on the hallowed turf — and instead have offered the adjacent nursery ground at the home of world cricket.

"We're very disappointed because the match against MCC is the last game of our tour and to play on the main ground at Lords would be a fabulous finale," Mark Ella, the former Australian rugby union star who is masterminding this year's history-tracing trip, said today.

Set sail
The first, and last, aboriginal cricket team to tour England set sail way back in 1868 — ten years

before an Australian team of European descent made the same journey for the first time.

Those trail-blazing aborigines played 47 matches during a five-month stay, including one against the MCC at Lords.

"Although this tour is much shorter with only 28 games, we're trying as far as possible to follow that original itinerary," said Ella, one of very few aborigines to reach the top in world sports.

"That's why we badly wanted our team to play on the main arena at Lords."

Officials at Lords — always under pressure to squeeze matches into a crowded programme — could yet relent following a plea from Australian High Commissioner in London, Douglas McClelland.

McClelland said: "I've written to Lords and their grounds committee has now agreed to recon-

Diamond beat Nugra

DIAMOND Cricket Club gained an easy ten wicket victory over Nugra Cricket Club in a friendly match at Kuna ground on Friday afternoon.

After winning the toss Nugra CC elected to bat. They opened their innings through Maqsood and Nasar but were soon in trouble when the latter was bowled in Tariq's second over. Then the wickets started falling regularly.

Except Maqsood none of the batsmen could face the bowling of Ejaz Tariq. Ajith and they were all out for 96 runs.

Maqsood scored 20, Ejaz captured 3 wickets. Ajith and Tariq 2 wickets each. Shabbir and Asghar got one wicket each.

In reply Diamond CC openers Ejaz and Tariq hammered their required runs in 14 overs. Ejaz remained not out on 44, while Tariq hit an unbeaten 39.

Lotus unveils new Formula One car

LE CASTELLET, France, Feb. 23, (Reuters): The Lotus motor racing team yesterday unveiled the car in which their new driver, Brazilian Nelson Piquet, hopes to capture his fourth world championship.

The 100-T, built by technical director Gerard Ducarouge, has a modified cockpit in line with the spot's new safety regulations which require that the driver's feet rest behind the front axle.

The new car, at 4.27 metres much shorter than its predecessor, is powered by a Honda V-six engine and has a totally new gearbox, with a passive suspension system on bilstein gas shock absorbers. Ducarouge said.

"It's a classic car on which we've paid special attention to mechanics and aerodynamics."

Piquet, who left the Williams team at the end of the 1987 season after lifting the Formula One drivers' title for the third time, goes with Lotus to Rio de Janeiro on Friday for private trials.

He said: "I'm very confident, even though I know the competition this season is going to be very tough."



Nelson Piquet sits in the new Lotus Honda car as Japanese co-driver Satoru Nakajima shakes his hand during the unveiling of the Formula One car at the Paul Ricard circuit on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tall Danner loses his place in French team

MUNICH, West Germany, Feb. 23, (Reuters): West German motor racing driver Christian Danner has lost his place with French Ligier Formula One team — because he is too tall.

Danner said from his Munich home that his 1.85 metres height had proved too much for the new Ligier, tailored to the modest height of Frenchman Rene Arnoux.

But the former zakspeed driver said although his desperate quest for a 1988 team place had failed to pay off, he would keep trying.

"It's unlikely that I'll be there for the world championship season opener. But I hope that an opportunity arises during the season. Others have found a place in a good team in this way," he said.

Danner fitted into the Ligier's cockpit easily enough. The drawback was the anti-roll bar. Under the sport's new safety rules it would have had to be enlarged by 10 centimetres to accommodate his length.

But according to team boss Guy Ligier this was impossible. This season's Ligier is a completely new development, with the engine replacing the fuel tanks behind the driver.

Danner said the situation "couldn't be put right with a

lump of iron." He added that he understood the position of Ligier, who has since signed Swedish driver Stefan Johansson.

He said Ligier had cabled his regrets, mentioning that he had held high hopes for Danner's performances. Danner and Ligier had signed a contract but it had contained a conditional clause covering technical grounds.

In France, Ligier welcomed Johansson to the team, saying he would bring the experience of 60 Grands Prix and 82 world championship points and would share with number one driver Rene Arnoux in the development of the new cockpit.

Johansson's previous Formula One teams have included Tyrrell, McLaren and Ferrari.

Fifa team in Morocco

RABAT, Feb. 22, (Reuters): A four-man mission from the International Football Federation (Fifa) began a fact-finding tour of Morocco today, the Moroccan Football Federation said.

Morocco is bidding to host the 1994 World Cup soccer finals along with the United States and Brazil.

SPORTS

Amir and Crown Prince meet teams

HH the Amir yesterday met the president of the Kuwait Football Association and honorary president of the Kuwait Tennis Association, Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad, who introduced the president, members and players of the Tennis Association on the occasion of Kuwait winning two gold medals and one silver medal at the 3rd GCC Tennis Tournament in Kuwait.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, also met Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad and members of the Tennis Association, as well as the national Kuwaiti boxing team that took part in the 3rd Asian Championship and the national water polo team taking part in the 4th Arab Gulf Tournament.



Picture shows the Amir with Sheikh Fahd (second left) and officials.



The picture shows the Crown Prince and Prime Minister with the officials and teams.

Many records shattered at New English School sports day

THE annual New English School sports day took place at the Qadisiya Stadium yesterday. The event was noteworthy for some fine sporting achievements and a greater number of school records than ever before were broken.

The students participated in a variety of track and field events and were competing for house points as well as individual awards.

Records

Particularly fine performances in track were recorded by Mark Shepherd, who reduced the second year boys 800m record by 20 seconds to 2.29 minutes and George Mezey, who cut the time for 5th and 6th year boys 1500m from 5 mins 15 to 5 mins 2 seconds.

In the third year girls 800m, Fiona Quinn broke the record by 14 seconds and ran in 3 mins 07 seconds. A particularly fine field achievement was recorded by Taymour Aboussaada, who increased the long jump record from 5m 52 to 5m 68.

Broke

The second and third year boys relay teams and the fifth and sixth year girls relay teams, all in Purple House, broke previously held records and helped to take their House to second place overall. The eventual House winner were Green House, with Red House coming a close third.

Medals

The medals for the many record-breakers were presented by the headmistress, Mrs Haifa Naqib, who complimented the students for their achievements. Mr John Lerett, the head of P.E. in New English School, thanked all students and staff for their co-operation in making the day such a success.



Two winners on the victory stand receive trophy.



A high jump action during the meet.



● A West German team in action against Kuwait Falcons during the ice hockey game played at the ice skating rink yesterday.

Soviets advance

FAIRFAX, Virginia, Feb 23. (AP) Natalia Zvereva and Laila Meskhi of the Soviet Union registered straight set victories yesterday to advance to the second round of the \$300,000 Virginia Slims of Washington tennis tournament.

But seventh-seeded Barbara Potter ended the Soviet winning streak with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Natalia Bykova.

There was only one mid upset on the opening day of the week-long tournament, as wild-card entry Jeri Ingram defeated Mary Lou Danies.

In other action, fifth-seeded Helena Sukova coasted past Kathrin Keil 6-1, 6-0, and West Germany's Sylvia Hanika eliminated Stephanie Rehe.

Top-seeded Martina Navratilova, who will be vying for her third straight tournament triumph, is scheduled to open play today against Judith Wiesner.

Mexican upsets Australian

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 23. (AP) Jorge Lozano of Mexico upset Australian Wally Masur 6-4, 6-2 in a 1-1-2-hour match yesterday to advance to the second round of the US pro indoor tennis championship.

On Lozano's second match point, Masur returned the serve into the net to end the match.

Lozano won the first set with a shot that forced Masur to hit the return under the net with a running forehand. Lozano took the second set with a run of three games.

Masur was ranked 35th and Lozano 107th internationally.

Defeated

In another 1-1-2-hour match, Australia's Broderick Dyke defeated Marc Flur 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (9-7). Flur held match point at 7-6 in the third-set tiebreaker but lost it with a return of service out of court. Dyke won the tiebreaker on an ace.

Gary Muller of South Africa fought back to defeat Dan Cassidy 2-6, 6-2, 6-3. Muller, a left-hander who served 12 aces in the match, won the contest of his fifth match point in the ninth game with a cross-court backhand passing shot.

In other first-round matches, Grant Connell of British Columbia won 6-4, 6-3 over Lawson Duncan, and Chris Pridham of Toronto defeated Larry Scott 7-5, 6-3.

Byes

The 16 seeded players drew byes in the first round and will play today or tomorrow. Top-seeded Ivan Lendl, winner of the title in 1986, will play his first match tomorrow. Second-seeded Tim Mayotte of the United States will begin defence of the championship today.

Mayotte will face Lefi Shiras, who defeated Horacio de La Pena of Argentina 6-1, 6-4.

Big opening victories for Japan, India and Thailand

NEW DELHI, Feb 23. (Reuter): Japan, India and Thailand enjoyed convincing victories on the opening day of the men's Thomas Cup and women's Uber Cup qualifying competitions today.

The Indian women's team drubbed Sri Lanka 5-0, a score repeated by the Indian men against Nepal. The Japanese men and the Thai women beat Sri Lanka and Nepal respectively by the same margin.

On a day of one-sided results, the most exciting contest came in the men's section where Japanese Hiroshi Nishiyama had to overcome stiff resistance from Sri Lankan Niroshana Wijekoon to win the second game 18-16.

Nishiyama won the first game 15-11.

Sri Lanka's Udaya Weerakoon also put up a fight. He matched Shinji Matsura for points before conceding the first game 18-15. He failed to maintain the pressure in the next game and went down 11-15.

Former All England champion Prakash Padukone and former Commonwealth Games gold medalist Syed Modi brushed aside weak challenges from their Nepalese opponents as India dominated their clash in the Thomas Cup.

The Thai women also looked formidable, yielding no more than four points in any game in their five-match tie against Nepal.

Austria gets third Alpine gold in Calgary Games

MOUNT ALLAN, Alberta, Feb 23. (AP): Sigrid Wolf raced to victory yesterday in the women's super-giant slalom with a blend of confidence and authority that seems to have infected the entire Austrian Alpine team.

The 24-year-old Wolf gave Austria its third Alpine gold at the Calgary Games as the rebuilding Austrians were overshadowing the heavily favoured Swiss.

Managed

Switzerland came to these Winter Games expecting to win as many as eight gold medals but have so far managed only one.

Switzerland, however, still leads Austria in overall Alpine medals, 7-5.

Wolf, slow on the top part of the course, set a blistering pace on the lower two-thirds, overtaking Swiss ace Michela Figini, who had to settle for the silver medal.

Wolf was timed in 1 minute, 19.03 seconds — a full second faster than Figini. Canadian Karen Percy earned her second bronze medal of these games, in 1:20.20.

West German Regine Moosenlechner was fourth in 1:20.33, followed by Austria's

Anita Wachter in 1:20.36 and Switzerland's Maria Walliser in 1:20.48.

Wolf, 24, who won a World Cup Super-G at Sestriere, Italy, earlier this season, maintained her tuck most of the way down the fairly straight course which closely resembled a downhill.

Clocking

Wolf had only the eighth-fastest time at the first intermediate clocking on the course, leaving her 26-hundredths of a second behind Figini, the pacesetter to that point.

But she found the tightest line through the remaining gates, bettering Figini's second intermediate clocking by six-tenths of a second and lengthening her margin to the finish.

She was so fast at the finish, in fact, she nearly missed the final turn, swinging wide but making that gate.

"High on top, I didn't give the optimal performance," Wolf said. "It took me a few turns before I got into it. But lower down I was quite happy."

"I was very disappointed in the downhill (in which she missed a gate and did not finish). I really wanted to do something in the Super-G. It's my favourite discipline."

Wolf said she was inspired by the combined gold medal won on Sunday by teammate Wachter.

Confidence

"The gold medal won by my friend Anita gave me a lot of confidence and motivation. I wasn't nervous today. I had the feeling when I woke up this morning that it was going to be my day."

"In the last few races Austrians have been skiing very well. If we are careful, we can win the other races (in the Olympics)."

Andy Rauch, the Austrian women's coach, said the recent successes by his team were the result of a four-year programme following the disaster of the 1984 Olympics, where that once-proud skiing nation earned only a single bronze medal.

"We started to rebuild the team four years ago with special training, conditioning and psychology," Rauch said. "The goal was to build a stronger team in four years, and that is what has happened. We expected to win some medals this time. It is the result of a lot of hard work."

In addition to her Super-G victory this season, Wolf has won



Wolf edges into a turn during the race (Reuter wirephoto)

two downhill races in seven seasons of World Cup racing. She also won another Super-G at Lech Am Arlberg, Austria on Jan 9, but she and three other Austrians were disqualified for allegedly using safety pins to fasten down the start numbers on their ski suits.

Figini, the World Cup Super-G standings leader who also is tied for the lead in the overall

standings, said she was "happy with the silver. The downhill wasn't too good for me (a ninth-place finish), but today is a beautiful day, with no wind and sunshine. I tried to get a medal and I did."

Figini said she made a mistake coming into the flat section of the course but was quick to add, "even if I hadn't, Sigrid was too good today."

Blair wins speed skating

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb 23. (AP): Bonnie Blair of the United States outduelled two East Germans to win the women's 500-metre speed skating event as all three Olympic medalists bested the world record yesterday.

Blair, skating in the fourth pair, sped around the indoor Olympic Oval in 39.10 seconds to win the gold, nipping the record of 39.12 that Christa Rothenburger of East Germany set two runs earlier.

Settle

Rothenburger, who had established the old mark of 39.39 in December in Calgary, had to settle for the silver medal. Her East German teammate Karin Kania, took the bronze in 39.24.

The 23-year-old Blair got off to a blazing start, turning the first 100 metres unofficially in 10.57. That was two-hundredths of a second faster than Rothenburger — and also was the final margin of victory.

Congratulated

She realised just after crossing the finish line that she had set the record, threw her hands in the air and skated around the track and into the arms of her boyfriend. She then buried her face in her hands as other competitors congratulated her.

It was the second gold medal of these Games for the United States.

Swedes and Soviets to face off in final run

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb 23. (AP): Sweden and the Soviet Union, the two only unbeaten teams in the Olympic hockey tournament face off Wednesday to start the final run for the gold.

But while world champion Sweden was the top seed in the preliminary round, it was less than dominating in its five "A" pool games. The Swedes didn't lose, but they won only twice while playing to ties three times.

Record

In fact, Finland managed to finish first in the pool with a 3-1-1 record after stumbling in the first game and losing to Switzerland.

Based on two points for a victory and one for a tie, the Finns ended up with seven points, the same as Sweden and Canada, but won the division based on tiebreaker rules.

Finland was the last team to clinch a medal-round slot, beating Poland 5-1 yesterday. The Finns then leaptfrogged to the top of the "A" pool when Canada and Sweden fought to a 2-2 tie. Switzerland wrapped up fourth place by handing France its fifth loss 9-0.

The second-seeded Soviets, meanwhile, swept through the "B" pool unscathed, outscoring its five opponents 32-10, and look to be the heavy favourites to defend the gold medal they won in 1984 at Sarajevo.

They actually will have an advantage even before the first puck is dropped. Since the Soviets beat the other two medal-round teams from their pool,

they get to keep those four points.

Points

Finland carries over three points, while Czechoslovakia, Sweden and West Germany will start with two each. Canada, despite its 3-1-1 record, will have only one point.

Czechoslovakia will face Finland, and West Germany plays Canada in the other first medal-round games.

Reijo Ruotsalainen scored a pair of goals for Finland, which used its superior speed to hold off Poland. The Poles, who had a strong first period, had fallen out of the medal chase after star forward Jaroslav Morawiecki tested positive for using the steroid testosterone.

Finnish goalie Jarmo Myllys stopped 17 shots in his fourth straight excellent performance.

Sweden, the bronze medalists in the last two Olympics, got goals from Jens Ohlring and Anders Eldebrink that were sandwiched around scores by Canada's Serge Boisvert and Merlin Malinowski.

"The guys were a little discouraged because they thought they played very well," Canada coach Dave King said. "At least we have one point going in (to the medal round) instead of none. It's little consolation but at least it's one."

Sweden assistant coach Curt Lindstrom said his team also was "not really satisfied."

"We had a few more chances than team Canada had," Lind-

Kipours upsets Hoppe

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb 23. (AP): Janis Kipours of the Soviet Union held on to what some competitors claimed was an ill-gotten lead and narrowly took the gold medal away from defending Olympic champion Wolfgang Hoppe in the two-man bobsled yesterday.

Sliding down a sandpaper-like course made gritty by two days of winds, Kipours covered the 1,612-metre (4,838-foot) track in 58.48 seconds on the fourth and final heat for a 3:53.48 total, edging the East German by seven-tenths of a second.

Hoppe beat Kipours on both of yesterday's runs but could not make up the eight-tenths of a second deficit he faced at the start of the day. He had runs of 59.45 and 58.42 to finish at 3:54.19.

Hoppe's teammate, 1984 silver medalist Bernhard Lehmann, won the bronze in 3:54.64.

Kipours, a 30-year-old Latvian building painter who was fourth in the 1984 Games, and pusher Vladimir Kozlov took the lead on their second run on Saturday just as the course conditions began to deteriorate under springlike temperatures and wind-blown sand.

Hoppe, who set a course record at 57.06 in his first run on Saturday, was more than two seconds slower than that on his second run. The draw put him near the end of the 41-sled list. Kipours raced earlier in the heat, under better track conditions, and jumped from fourth to first.

The other consolation game, involving the fourth-place finishers from each pool, will pit the United States against Switzerland on Thursday.

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